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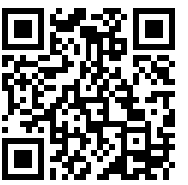

ST OSWALD CLUB.

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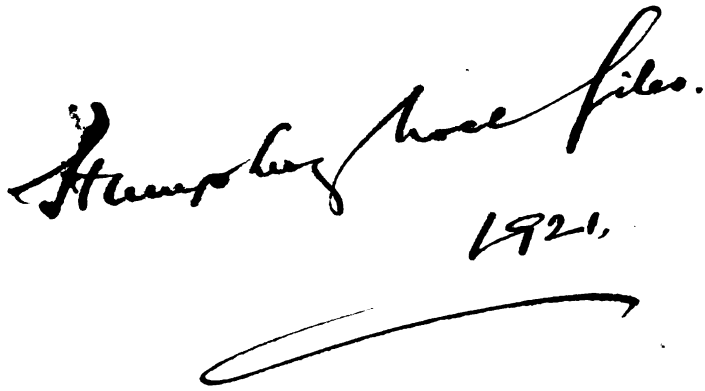

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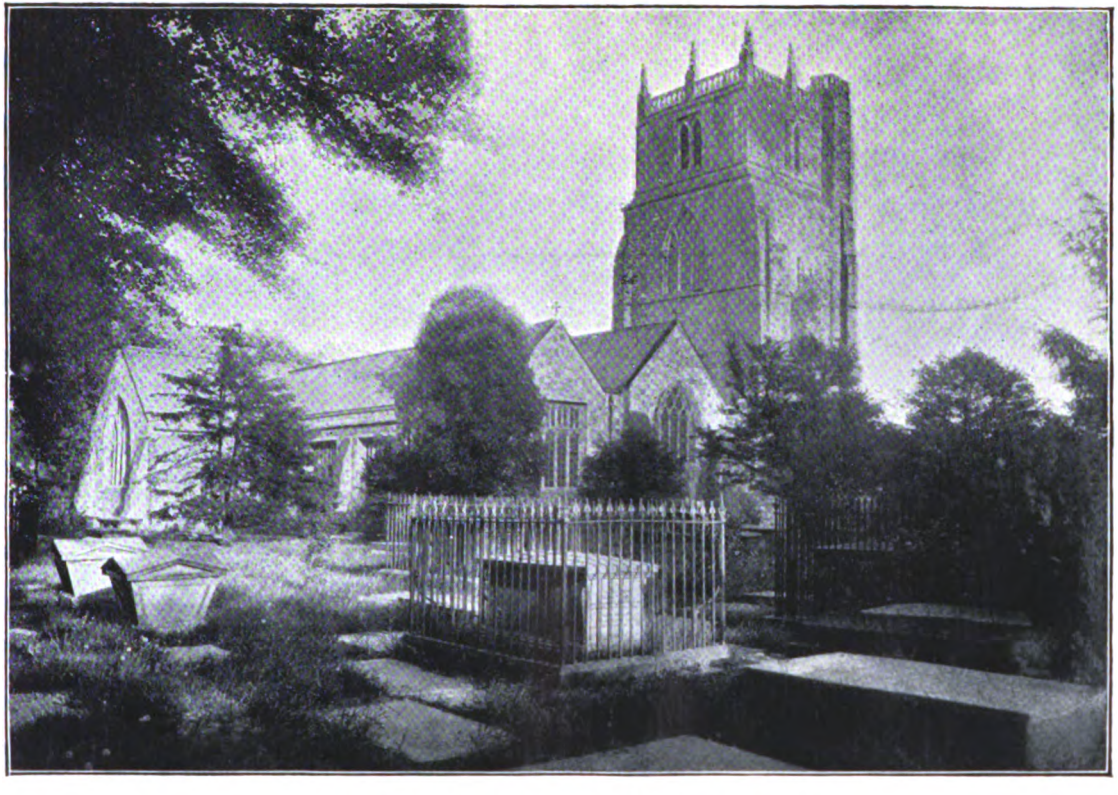

THE PARISH CHURCH (St. Oswald's) **from the North-west, 1920.**

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OSWESTRY,

WITH

AN ACCOUNT OF ITS OLD HOUSES, SHOPS, ETC.,

AND

SOME OF THEIR OCCUPANTS.

BY

ISAAC WATKIN.

LONDON:
SIMPKIN, MARSHALL, HAMILTON, KENT & CO., LTD.

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For much information and helpful assistance the Writer desires to express his indebtedness to the Proprietors of the *Border Counties Advertiser*, and *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, the Publishers of *Bye-Gones*, *Oswestry Commercial Circular*, *Reminiscences of Oswestry* (Mr. T. Owen), *Contributions to Oswestry History* (Mr. J. Askew Roberts), *History of the Diocese of St. Asaph* (Ven. Arch. Thomas), *History of Selattyn* (Gwenrhian Gwynedd), *The Story of Oswestry Castle* (Mr. J. Parry Jones), and *Oswestry Corporation Records* (Mr. Stanley Leighton), also to Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon (for corrections and suggestions), Major Parker Leighton (for Illustrations), Major C. H. Bull, Rev. M. B. Lutener, Alderman Edward Hughes, J.P., Wrexham, Mr. Robert Owen, Welshpool, Mr. William Morris, Messrs. T. Owen & Son (for 32 illustrations), the Borough Officials, Mr. John Thomas, and many Old Inhabitants.

38, PARK AVENUE,
OSWESTRY.

May, 1920.

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OSWESTRY.

OSWESTRY is named after, or held to commemorate, Oswald, king of Northumbria, who, in 642, was here defeated in battle and slain by Penda, king of Mercia, and it is conjectured that the Welsh called it Croes-Oswallt, and the English Osester, Osestree, Oswaldestree—Oswald's Tree, from a circumstance which is thus related :—Oswald, previous to the battle with Cadwallon, near Severus' Wall, set up a *cross* of wood, and making intercession thereat he over-threw his adversary. In those dawning days of Christianity, the success of Oswald was attributed to this pious act. Being fortunate in this instance, he probably adopted the like measure before Oswestry, " but as the sunne hath its shadow, and the highest tide its ebbe, so Oswald how holy soever, or government how good " fell in the contest. From the cross or tree so erected the town took its name. (Price's *History*).

Before that event the Saxons called the place " Maserfelth, Math : of Westm' Ranulphus Cestrensis and fabian Maserfield or Macerfeild. This Saxon name was derived (as app'eth from the ould Brittishe name thereof) from Mesen, w'ch in the ould Brittishe and accordinglie in our moderne welshe, signifieth an Acorne, mees in the plurall number acornes, meserid glandiu copia plenty of acornes, and mesbren, an oake or the Acorne tree, whence the Saxon Mesenfelth (so written by Beda), or Maserfield by the other historians and Antiquaries. Both beinge the same in sence and were in sound . . . . . and semblably the ould Britaynes called this Towne Tre'r Vesen . . . . the towne of great oakes, as being scituate in a soile then full of greate oakes growing thereupon and compassed

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therew'th for a spacious distance and large circuit on every side. I find one that would fayne derive the etymon of Croes Oswald and Oswaldestree to be more antient than Oswald, and that the Towne was not denominated of him, his opinion (the author of it beinge a learned gent.) you shall takke in his own words :—Cunetha W'ledig, saeth hee, inhabitinge in the northe p'ts of England, about the yeere 540 as well driven by the Saxons as for his inheritance w'th his eleven sonnes arrived in North Wales and divided the countrie betwixt them, Ussa, one of his sonnes hadd Maes-Vswalht, nowe Oswestry." (J. Davies. Harl. MS. 1981).

After the death of King Oswald the names Tre'rfesen (British) and Maserfield (Saxon) were discontinued, and English Oswaldestree adopted and so continued until " the interposicion of another name —Trefred. This last continued but for a while only duringe the space that Meredith ap Blethin, prince of Powis, was lorde of the town and of the countrie adjacent thereunto. Then indeed (as some write) the people for the most p'te (belike in honor of their lord and prince) called it Trefred (that is to say Meredithe's Towne) . . . . But when prince Meredith died (1129) the name Trefred died alsoe and was quite extinguished with him." (Davies' MS), and the town resumed its former appelation.

Oswestry is not named in *Doomsday-Book* (a book compiled by order of William the Conqueror containing a survey of the lands in England and commenced about 1084), but the district around is comprised in the Manor of Meresberie (Maesbury—an open plain) and Hundred of Mersete, and there is mention of a place called " Castle L'uvre," which, it is suggested by Eyton, means " The Work " or a great military position, and it is probable that this was Oswestry Castle. (*J. Parry Jones.*)

In the Charter of James I (1617) it is called " the Town and Borough of Oswaldestre, otherwyse called Oswester, otherwyse called Osestry, otherwyse called Oswestry in the Countie of Saloppe," all of which are

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versions of the Welsh *Croesoswallt* or Oswald's Tree or Cross.

BUILDINGS.

In writing upon many an ancient structure there is often a difficulty in fixing, with any degree of certainty, the date when it came into existence. This, however, does not arise with regard to the really old buildings now standing in the town of Oswestry, for, leaving out the castle and parish church, it may be safely stated that all those which have survived destruction, belong to the period when half-timber dwellings came into vogue.

Although the making of bricks in this country was encouraged at a very early date, they were not generally adopted for building until the end of the sixteenth or beginning of the seventeenth century, so it may be taken that, with the exception of castles, churches, and a few mansions, which were usually built of rough stone, places of abode, previous to the sixteenth century, were constructed of timber and chiefly covered with straw, and such were the habitations of Oswestrians at the happening of the fearful calamities recorded in history. Several of these are noted in the Davies' MS.—" Wee reade that . . . .King John . . . . about 1215 w'th diverse of his nobles and a greate army w'th him ent'red into Wales att Blanc-Monaster, nowe Oswestry . . . . which towne . . . . . he burned to the grounde. And likewise we finde that . . . . Llewelyn, Prince of North Wales . . . . in 1233 . . . . burned the towne of Oswestry," and further, " I find it was burned by a great missfortune of fire casually happeninge thrice in thirty years. Twoe longe streets w'th greate riches of that towne were burnt an'o D'm 1542, and likewise or worse in An'o 1544 and lastly in 1567, 200 houses, seaven score w'thin the walles and three score without in the suburbs besides cloath, cattle etc, were consumed by fire, w'ch fire began att twoe of the clock in the morning and ended at foure to the great marveiling of

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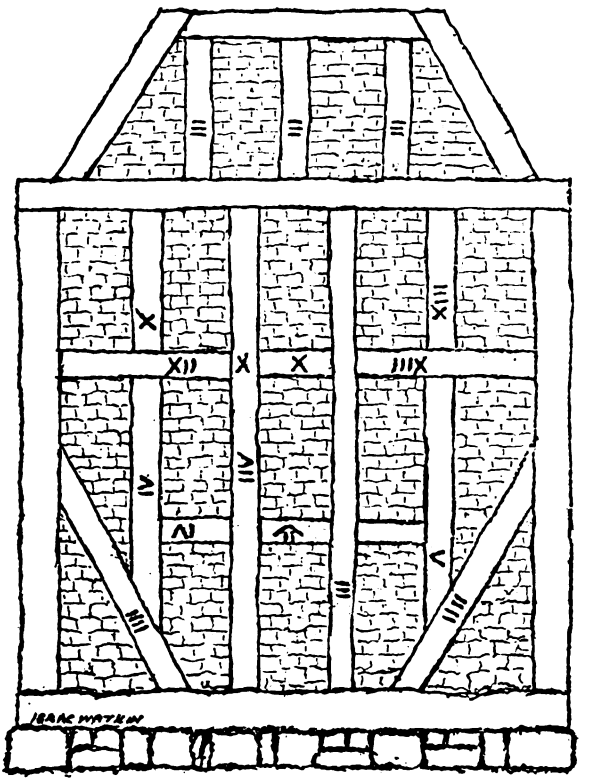
many that so greate a spoile in soe short a time should happen."

As late as 1742 there was another destructive fire, for in the Muringer's account of that year appears the following :—

" Beer ordered to 4 persons for watching at the late terrible fires 0 9 0
Ale for ye workers at the late fire 0 3 8
Regulating ye money for ye sufferers by fire 0 1 0 "



No. 18, BAILEY STREET. End Elevation, showing Construction and Numbered Blocks.

In the beginning of the sixteenth century, houses began to be constructed of squared pieces of timber (trees being then inexpensive and obtainable in nearly every neighbourhood) which would be framed vertically or horizontally to massive beams resting

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upon a wide stone foundation. The pieces were mortised together, and made secure by strong wooden pegs. This skeleton frame work, as is proved by the inspection of old ruins at the present time, was an independent structure. Several of the panels in the frame work were used for windows and doors, while the remainder were filled in with hazel or willow sticks, neatly interwoven, the upright rods being sprung or bent into holes prepared in the beams, thus securing firmness without the use of nails, the whole being afterwards covered over with mud or clay, whence cometh the term "wattle and daub." In after years, when the lattice work became decayed, and bricks and mortar more general, the old panels were fitted in with the latter material.

The earlier houses so constructed were of a plain type, something after the style of the "Bell" and "Old White Lion" Inns (if the paint and plaster were removed and the old windows and doors had remained). Others, later, had projecting upper storeys, as in Llwyd's mansion and the rear portion of Mr. Beckitt's premises in Market Street, but what was the purpose of such projections is not now clear. The size of the upper rooms was certainly increased where in confined areas there was a scarcity of space on the ground floor, the lower portion of the building was also sheltered from the weather, but some writers go so far as to suggest that they were necessary in narrow thoroughfares for the protection of pedestrians from the slops which the indolent housewife of Elizabethian times cast recklessly from the upstairs windows. *(Charm of the English Village).*

Many of the roofs at this early period were covered with wheat straw thrashed by the flail, work which was skilfully and artistically done by men (thatchers) who followed the occupation in the same manner as do the slaters of the present day.

Towards the end of the sixteenth century these homely buildings began to be ousted by the introduction of bricks. It has not been ascertained whether there are any brick-built buildings or remains existing in the town, belonging to that early period,

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or even whole buildings of the seventeenth century, but, as will be seen by the itenerary, houses of the eighteenth century are numerous. Several of the latter bear inscriptions, but although a diligent search has been made through the Parish Registers, the only available data, it has not been possible to trace any names to fit in with the initials inscribed.

Several additions to existing houses were made to meet the exigences of the extra coaching traffic brought about by the Union with Ireland in 1801, but it was not until the introduction of railways sixty years later, that the great improvements really began, and any person returning to the town, after an absence of fifty years from then, would find that every place of business from the Sun corner to the bottom of (old) Beatrice Street, had either been rebuilt, refronted, or the ground floor totally changed.

Mr. Askew Roberts, in his second edition of the *Gossiping Guide to Wales* (1870) wrote :—

" Oswestry is really the head of the Cambrian system, and the last decade of years has been an important one in its history. Whilst many small towns have been damaged by the introduction of railways, Oswestry has wholly benefited, the trade has increased, its borders are enlarged, its shops have improved and there is a greater air of business about its inhabitants."

An old Oswestrian visiting the borough in 1870 wrote :—

" Thirty years ago everybody knew everybody, and if a body unknown happened to fleet past, we all turned round to know who it was and what it wanted. Now-a-days you don't know one in every three you meet, and if you do happen to meet the same party half a dozen times, you put him down as somebody connected with the railway. Thirty years ago we had a main line of streets, with a few distinctive names, which needed not boards affixed to the corners to indicate which was which . . . Now you have so many new streets, and have so mangled the old ones that your police are powerless to direct the way . . . Thirty years ago we had corns and cobbles, now you have macadam . . . . Then we had small panes, dim lights and dirty windows, now you have plate-glass, polish, and illuminated clocks."

In describing the various houses and shops, the existing system of street naming and numbering is followed, noting, in addition, where the old names applied.

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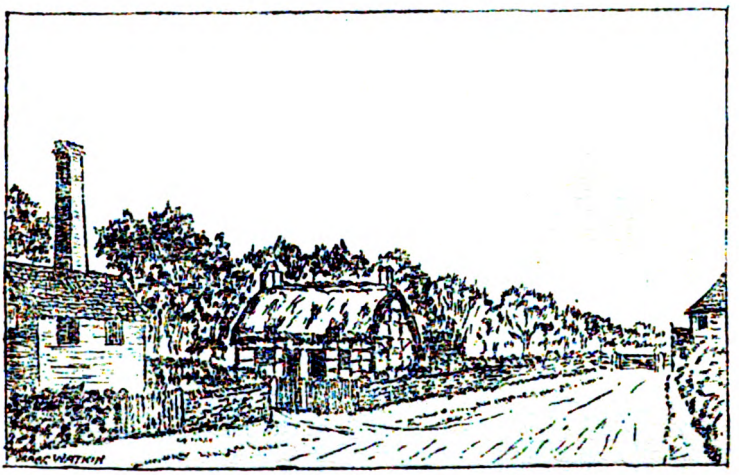
POOL ROAD.



CROESWYLAN, 1860.

Commencing at Croeswylan—Many years ago a coal pit was sunk at the top of the field on the left, at the junction of Morda and Penylan Mill roads, but owing to persistent underground floodings, which the primitive methods of the times were unable to cope with, the project was abandoned and another shaft tried in the corner near where now stand Thornhill and Greengate Villas, but here again the enterprise met with the same fate. The tall chimney and dilapidated engine-house of the latter pit were standing about fifty years ago, since when all have been cleared away, the bank levelled, and the ground utilized for building purposes.

Opposite, on the Beechfield side, near where Croeswylan stone is preserved, there is a subsidence marking the site of two very ancient straw thatched, semi-detached cottages. The last to occupy was David Vaughan, who worked in the late Mr. John Thomas' timber yard. Vaughan, who on Saturday nights, frequented the Welsh Harp Inn, used to relate that on one occasion when trudging homeward after closing time (nearly midnight) along the Croeswylan path, he slipped into a dry ditch and there slept, and, when he awoke next morning, the sun was shining

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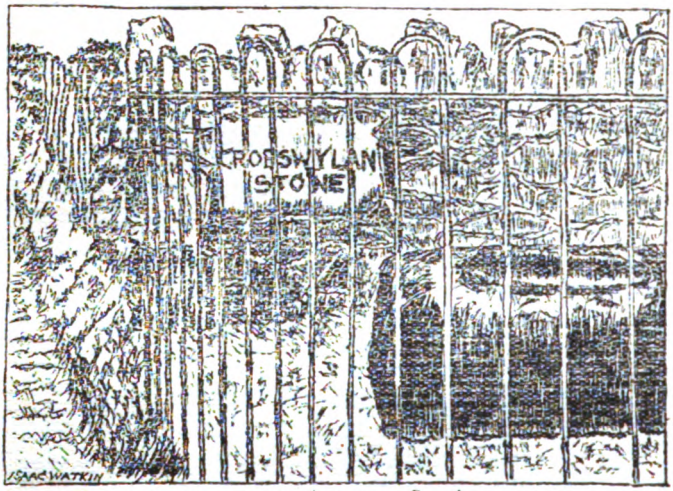
into his face, and his garments and the ground around covered with two or three inches of recently fallen snow. About sixty years ago the site of the old buildings was acquired by Mr. Charles Minshall, and by him let into the field adjoining.



As to the stone—Croeswylan (*cross of wailing or weeping*) just mentioned—In 1559 the sweating sickness (named "because it did most stand in sweating from the beginning to the ending") raged with such violence in the town, that in one year upwards of 500 of its inhabitants were consigned to the grave. (*Parish Register*).

This highly malignant and contagious disease, which ravaged Europe in the fifteenth and sixteenth century, first appeared in the army of the Earl of Richmond (afterwards Henry VII) upon his landing at Milford Haven after the battle of Bosworth in 1485, spreading quickly to London and the provinces. The men (foreigners) levied had been collected it is probable (wrote Philip de Comaine) from jails and hospitals and buried in filth, but whether the contagion was generated in the crowded transport-vessels on board of which they were embarked has not been determined. The invasion of the disease was generally quite sudden, some persons experiencing a sensation as of a hot

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vapour extending over the body, while others felt as if consumed by an internal fire. There was violent fever, pain in the head and limbs, prostration of strength, hurried breathing, great thirst, delirium and excessive restlessness. Shortly after the appearance of these symptoms a profuse clammy fetid perspiration broke out over the whole body, the thirst became more intolerable, and the patients either died in a state of delirium or coma, or recovered as suddenly as they had been first attacked. Such was the rapidity with which this disease ran its course that the victims were sometimes carried off in three or four hours or even before the sweating stage had set in, and all danger was considered to be at an end if the patient survived the first twenty-four hours. The profuse sweating was looked upon as an effort of nature to get rid of some morbid matter from the system, accordingly when persons were attacked it was usual to put them immediately to bed without even removing their clothes, to enjoin absolute quietude, not to sleep, (those who indulged in this propensity seldom woke again) and to encourage the outbreak of the perspiration by heating the room, covering them well up from the air (exposure of an arm proving fatal), and serving them with mild cordials.

Croeswylan stone formed the base of a cross erected in this vicinity, to which, (quoting from *Oswald's Well Magazine*),

" with reverence all the people resorted. The diseased and dying sought in grief, beneath its sacred shadow, a preparation for the doom to which they were appointed, and before it the healthy ones confessed, and deplored their sins, and deprecated the vengeance of heaven. The air was laden with shrieks and lamentations. All commerce (in the town) was at a standstill. Every house was locked, the inmates scarcely venturing upon a communication with each other, much less exposing themselves to contact with those without. If one of their number was attacked, no consideration of friendship or kindred spared him the aggravation of being hurled into the street, there to wait the regular call of the dead-cart, upon which, whether dead or just gasping for life, the victims were heaped, and hurried off to the brim of a huge pit, dug, probably, in a corner of the old churchyard, into which they were remorselessly thrown."

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The entries, very brief and hurriedly made, in the Parish Register, of the persons having died of the "Plauge" during the last half of the year 1559 are :— July 38, August, 67, September, 177, October 93, November 53, and December 35, total for six months 463. On October 9th there were nine burials, which are entered thus :—"Jen'y ap Thom's, Willm ap Thom's, M'gret ve (verch or daughter of) John, M'gret v. W., M'gret , , , , yn ap . . . . , Malt v. Johnn, Ric. ap John, Jenet v. Robert, buried ye same daye."

The markets during the continuation of the plague were held upon the ground adjacent to the stone, lest the country people by coming into the town should be infected or because of their fears if they did so. The poor people within the affected area suffered severely as well as the lessees of stalls and gates, and after the plague had abated, it is stated in the Borough Records that relief was granted to them as follows :—

"Accompt of Richard ap Lley, Muringer of the town of Oswestr, for and from the xvj day of September, in the 2nd yere of our Sovrayne Lady Elizabeth.

"The sayde accomtante doth asc alowaunce for rent bayted to the Towlers (toll-takers) for one qr. in considracion of the PLAGE :—

	s.	*d.*
Fyrst to the executors of John Vyghan	xx	...
Allso &c. rent bayted to Thomas ap Rc. for Wolwys-gate	xx	...
Allso &c. to David Glover the elder, for Newe-gate	xiij	iiij
Allso &c. to Wyling Lloyd for Betresce-gate	x	...
Allso &c. to David ap David for Blak-gate	iiij	ij
Also &c. rent of Crofft-pystil in the hande of Rc. ap Mrdyth dyssessed	ij	...
Allso &c. money payde for wrytinge of suplycacion to my lord of Arundell	...	xij
Allso &c. for Lewys Tayler, and Guttyn Furbur, beinge unpayde for setting of stakes, by reason of the plage	...	xiiij
Allso &c. for Rc. Lewther, for one qr. beinge absent from the towne	...	xx
Tanners. Allso &c. for a qr. rent unto Tanners beinge absent in tyme of the plage ; and fyrste Thomas Baker (2 other similar items)	...	xiiij

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Glovers. Itm. The sayde accomptaunt dothe asc alowaunce for them that are deade or fled, and them that are in decaye; and fyrst, Thomas ap John Wyling, beinge a poore man (five others fled &c.) ... xij

Buchers. Imp. the sayde accomtant &c. Lewys, bucher, that is deade (one for the like and 7 fled) ... v

Corvsers. Edward Gorg. fled (2 others fled) ... iij

Backers. David ap sr. Rc. saythe that he dothe not occupey his backhouses, and prayth alowance ... vi

David Bobyth hathe ben longe secke, and asc alo. ... iij

Hucksters. Jonet vrch. David ap Morys asc alowance for a qr Rent (1 other) ... x

Alle Selers. Edward Lloyd praythe alowance for a qr. ... xjj

David Glover the elder, in lycke manner ... xiiij

Richard Salter was longe syck and praythe alowance ... xiiij

Thomas Glover praythe alowaunce for half a yere; aledging that he sold no alle for that space (3 others) ... xx

Payments for the provision of the general Feast unto the Cooburgesses according the aunsient costom, holden the Vth day of Desember in the thryde yere of the raynge of our sovraynge layde Elizabeth, by the grace of God quene of England &c. at the making of this accompt :—

	s.	*d.*
Whete. Fyrste, the said accomptaunt hathe payde for ii stryckes and a hoope of whette and for peys	xj	...
Maullte. Also payde for iii strycke of maullt	xij	...
Boochers. Allso payde for a qr. and ii rybes of byff	vj	viij
Allso payde for mytton for to make peys for this feast	ij	vj
. . . . .		
. . . . . for ii lb ressyns	...	xij
. . . . . s. pep - -	...	vij
Cloves &c. Allso payde for cloves, masses and saffrone	...	vj
Allso payde for synamon and sugr	...	vij
Itm. pd. for buttr, spent at this feast	...	viij
Chese. Allso payde for chesses	ij	ix
Nyttes &c. Allso pd. for appells and nyttes	...	xvj
Saullt Allso payde for a hoope of sallt for the byff	...	x

This Accompt was made before us, the persons under-named, then Bailiffe of the said Towne

JOHN STANNEY,
THOMAS EVANS.

In 1585 there was another visitation which is recorded thus in the parish register :—" 1585 this yeare on the 18th of March, the plague began in the

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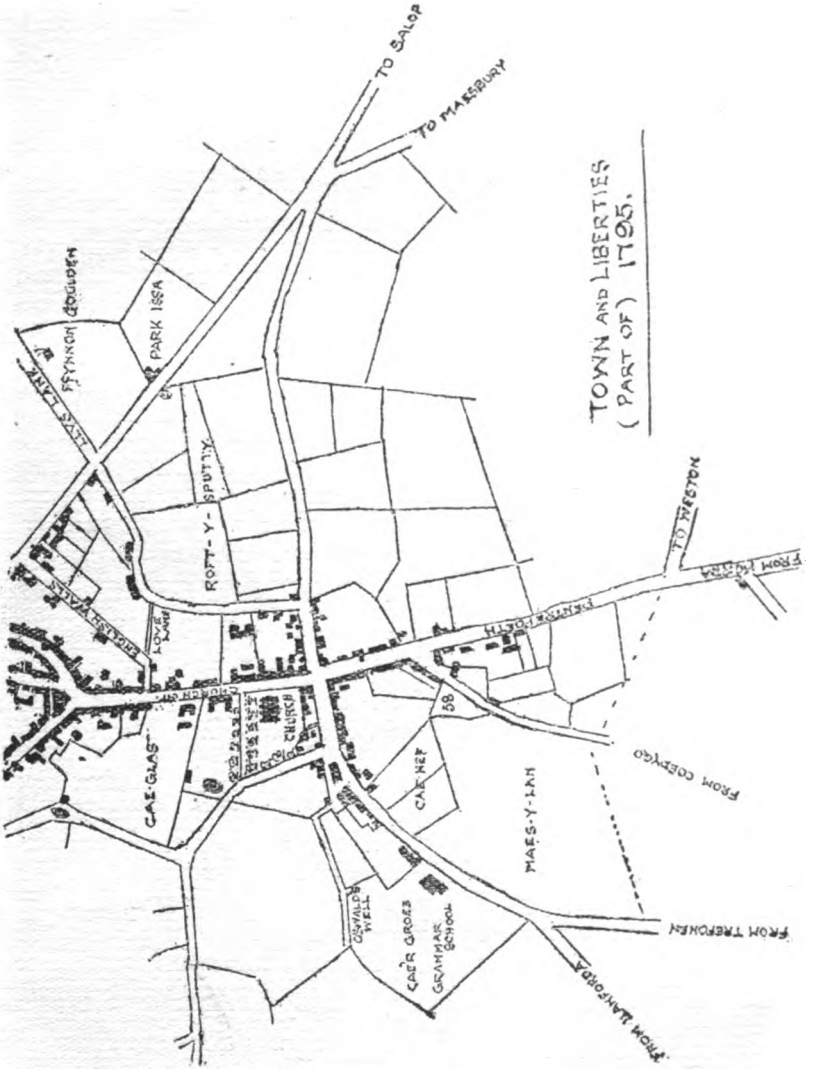

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Town, whereof died three score and four persons, and no more."

The stone supporting the cross erected in 1559, was left lying upon the roadside, and for many years it was customary for the country people to wash their money in the water stored in the cavity, and there was also a tradition attached to it, that it actually turned round every time it heard the clock strike one. About 1890 a suitable recess for its preservation was formed in the corner of Beechfield fence, close to its original site, wherein it was placed, with an inscribed stone near, and the space enclosed with iron railings.

Proceeding townwards, we enter a district that was for several centuries known as Pentrepoeth (the *hot suburb* or *burnt end of the town*) on account of the great fire that raged there in 1567, but in 1866 its name was changed to Upper Church Street.

Upon the right and near to Llwynderw, were the kennels of the Oswestry Corporation Hounds, a pack which hunted in the neighbourhood at the beginning of last century. The dogs were harriers, maintained by subscriptions, principally from the members of the Town Council, for there was no subsidy from the Corporation. The pack was subsequently removed to Aston.

On one occasion when the Pimhill troop of yeomanry were on drill the hounds passed near and the late Mr. Jack Mytton of Halston, at the time on duty, left his men and followed the chase. (*Bye-Gones*).

Near the entrance to Edward Street was a brick-yard, worked by Mrs. Clara Evans, and subsequently by Messrs. Morris, Chaplin and Corney.

Picton House, adjoining the Golden Lion Inn, was erected about 1840, and occupied by Miss Minnet, Messrs. Edward Eyeley (1852) and Richard Milnes. In 1860 it was purchased by the English Baptists for a manse. The first minister to occupy as such was the Rev. E. D. Wilks, who was in the town from 1857 to 1881, his successor being the Rev. George Archer.

Next comes the Golden Lion Inn, which up to

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about eighty years ago was the first dwelling upon the right approaching the town. The occupier in 1830 was Mr. John Williams, harpist. He was the son of Robert Williams, parish clerk of Llancadwaladr, and born in a small public house bearing the sign of a stag, carved upon a large stone, that stood on the road side near Tygwyn in that parish. Mr. Williams competed successfully for the silver harp at the Beaumaris Royal Eisteddfod in 1832, and the prize instrument was presented to him by their Royal Highnesses the Duchess of Kent and Princess (afterwards Queen) Victoria. He died at the Golden Lion in September of the same year, after a short illness brought on by a severe cold and over anxiety at the Eisteddfod. His successors here were Thomas Pemberton, John Williams (1852), Margaret Williams (1869), William Pryce (1870), Edward Davies (1873), John Charles Davies (1874), and John Edwards (1880).

It was in an upper room of a building at the rear of these premises that the first Ragged School of the town was opened in 1870, under the mastership of Mr. Richard Owen. The school was maintained wholly by (then) the Hon. Mrs. Kenyon. A more suitable building was afterwards erected in Castle Street, and which is there referred to.

Just here, and adjoining the street, was a public weighing machine, much used before the introduction of railway wharfs, in ascertaining the weight of bark and agricultural produce brought into the town from the neighbouring districts.

Near to the last named stood the Pentrepoeth turnpike gate, reaching across to what is now No. 52. In the eighteenth century, the roads, leading from all points into the town, were declared to be "in a ruinous condition, narrow and incommoding in many places, for wheel carriages, and cannot be effectually amended and kept in repair by the ordinary course of law," and in 1762 an Act, entitled, "An Act for repairing, straightening and widening several roads in the Counties of Montgomery, Salop and Denbigh" was passed, under which a number of Trustees were appointed to carry out the work (and maintenance

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afterwards) with the aid of grants, and money to be borrowed by them upon the credit of Tolls to be levied after the roads were properly constructed. The Town Trustees were :—The Mayor, Recorder, High Steward, and Coroner, for the time being, with (in 1788) Messrs. Basnett Birch Basnett, John Bassett, Jonathan Barff, John Croft, John Croxon, Richard Croxon, John Gibbons, John Gibbons Junr., William Griffiths, Lewis Jones, Robert Lloyd, William Leigh, John Lovett, John Lloyd, Thomas Williams, and the Revs. Turner Edwards, Eusebius Edwards, Owen Owen and Joseph Venables. The roads were to be measured and mile stones erected, and, at certain intervals, on sites to be selected by the Trustees, they were also to be barred with a strong gate, or chain, to prevent the passage of beasts and vehicles, until toll, according to a table to be affixed on the wall of the Toll-keeper's residence (directed to be built on the side of the road, near,) was paid, and at the one end of such barrier was to be fixed a wicket, or a turnstile constructed of two bars crossing each other at right angles and turning on a post or pin, through which pedestrians were to pass free. The same Act provided that

" the respective tolls following shall be demanded and taken at such Toll-gates or Turnpikes, as aforesaid, before any beast or Carriage shall be permitted to pass through the same, (that is to say)

For every Horse, or other beast, drawing any Coach, Chariot, Landau, Berlin Chaise, Calash, Hearse, Chair, Waggon, Wain, Car, Cart, Tumbrill, Car drag or Sledge, the sum of Four pence.

For every Horse or other beast, laden or unladen, and not drawing, the sum of One penny.

For every Drove of Oxen, cows or neat cattle, the sum of Ten pence per score, and so in proportion for any less number.

And for every drove of Calves, Hogs, Sheep or Lambs, the sum of Five pence per score and so in proportion for any less number."

The hauling of manures (lime excepted) to agricultural land, hay or straw not sold and passing to outbuildings near, stock going to and from water, the Army, horses and carriages employed for election purposes, residents passing to and from their own parish church, chapel, or nearest place of worship on

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Sundays, Christmas Day or Good Friday, and horses and vehicles used at the funeral of any person or persons who should die and be buried in the same parish as they respectively lived, were exempt. Tolls were to be paid only twice between Oswestry and Welshpool, twice between Oswestry and Wrexham, twice between Oswestry and Llanfyllin, and only once a day (computed from twelve of the clock in one night to the same hour in the succeeding night), but if anything passed through the gate a third time within the day, it was subject to full toll. The Tolls, several times altered by Amending Acts, were usually let by the year to the highest bidder, a notice of the intending letting appearing in the local newspapers. As before stated, the first turnpike gate upon this approach to the town was set up here, but early in the last century it was removed to the junction of the Morda and Weston Roads, Croeswylan, and a Collector's house erected. The Turnpike Trust of this district expired in 1876, when the gates were abolished and the upkeep of the roads placed upon the rates.

Returning to Croeswylan and looking townward, —Immediately upon the left is the entrance to Beechfield, a villa erected by Mr. Charles Minshall, Solicitor, for his own occupation. The corner stone thereof is inscribed :—" This stone was laid by Ellen Eliza Minshall, October 25th, 1862." After residing here for some years, Mr. Minshall removed to Roseneath, Wilmot Croft, and was succeeded, firstly, by Mrs. Rogers, wife of Professor Rogers, author of " The Eclipse of Faith," and, secondly, by his nephew Mr. Joseph Parry-Jones. Mr. Parry-Jones, born in 1843, was the eldest son of Mr. Richard Jones, of Bailey Street, by Margaret, daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, Sen., Solicitor. He was articled to his uncles, Messrs. Thomas and Charles Minshall, and admitted a solicitor in 1871. In the same year he became a partner, the firm being known as Minshall and Parry-Jones. He was elected to the Town Council in 1877, and (upon the death of Mr. Henry Davies) town clerk in 1884, and in recognition of the

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eminent services rendered by him in that capacity, the honorary freedom of the borough was conferred upon him in 1898. In 1885 he married Sarah, daughter of the late Mr. Richard Griffiths of Ruyton-xi-towns, and was the Coronation Mayor in 1901. He afterwards removed to The Plas, Glynceiriog, where he died in December, 1915.

Miss Minshall, who laid the corner-stone above referred to, was the daughter of the late Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, Junr. She afterwards became the wife of the Rev. Thomas Gasquoine, B.A., Pastor of Christ Church 1864—1879, and died at Bangor in 1919.

The first dwellings up against the road were two stone-built cottages, near the site of Bryntirion, the last occupiers being Charles Batterbee and Maurice Jones (the poet).

A little beyond, and in a line with Mount Oswald, stood a row of timber framed and straw thatched cottages, demolished about 1870. These were the last of the kind seen in the town. One of the characters living there was Sally Bowyer who, during the week, collected small beer or "swillings" in open buckets, from the town breweries, (nearly all publicans brewed their own beer in those days) which she retailed to thirsty callers on Sunday mornings, at a halfpenny per quart.

At the end of these cottages was a kiln for the manufacture of clay tobacco pipes, of the type known as "churchwardens." It was carried on as far back as 1840, by Thomas Jones, and afterwards by Charles Allmand Haswell, until his death in 1876. According to an advertisement of 1852, the charge for burning the pipes was sixpence per gross.

Next comes Picton Terrace, erected about 1858. Before then, and some distance from the street, there were a couple of straw thatched cottages, one of which was occupied by "Moike," the leading chimney sweeper of the town. Mr. T. Owen, in his *Reminiscences of Oswestry*, mentions that Moike had a drunken wife, whom he used to have to fetch home in a wheelbarrow, often upsetting her on the way.

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At the back of Picton Cottages (Nos. 62 and 64) was a house and workshop, where, about 1840, Mr. Evan Jones (known as "Evan over the house") commenced business as a joiner. He afterwards removed to 1, Upper Church Street.

Close by was a little detached cottage, in which lived an old pedlar named Samuel Ryder, but commonly called "Sammy the Nogs." A man of unceremonious manner, but withal a regular member of the late Mr. Cuthbert's Bible Class. Mr. Owen relates that on one occasion, a class of young girls lacked a teacher, whereupon Mr. Cuthbert, jokingly, said to the old man, "Suppose you take it Samuel." Up jumped Sammy, with his baize-covered Bible under his arm, exclaiming "Oh, ay, sir, I dunna ca'ar if I do!"

Nearly adjoining was a house and smithy occupied by John Jones.

Upon the site of these have been erected Nos. 60, 58 and 56. In No. 58, lived for many years, Mr. Maurice Roberts, father of Mr. W. J. Roberts, Ironmonger, formerly a draper at Glasgow House, and afterwards collector of the town rates. He died in 1871. No. 56 was occupied by Mr. John Vaughan, stonemason.

The space now occupied as a coal wharf, in the beginning of the last century was a timber yard held by Mr. Hollis, his dwelling house being in the centre of it. About 1835, Mr. Richard Milnes, a monumental and marble mason, commenced business here. He carried it on up to the time of his death in 1858, when Mr. John Vaughan became occupier until 1899.

Turning upon the left, we enter Penylan Lane, across which, years ago, was a chain gate. This was considered such an annoyance by the farmers entering the town from Coedygo, that one of them applied his horses to destroy it, for which he had to pay the penalty imposed by the local magistrates.

Immediately upon the left after passing through the chain gate, stood the Ysgubor Degwm, or Barn, a building used for storing the crops of the earth at a time when tithes taken for the support of divine

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worship were collected in kind, by the parson, from tillers of the ground in the tre-ddegwm, tithing, or township near.

What is now the Penylan Lane Mission Room was erected about 1856 by the Welsh Wesleyan Methodists who worshipped therein until July, 1878, when they removed to larger premises in Victoria Road.

Beyond this is Colon House (formerly Bethesda Cottage—after the little chapel close by), and four cottages called the Square, which were erected by Mr. Thomas Rowlands.

Adjoining is the back approach to Croeswylan House, for the formation of which two or three cottages and a weaver's shop, the latter in 1854 occupied by Benjamin Jones, were cleared away.

Higher up the lane, and nearly opposite the entrance to Maesylan, stood a house called Croft Wilmot, upon the face of which was a stone inscribed

M
I. W.
1696.

The site, with the land reaching to Morda Road, was formerly part of the Wynnstay estate, and was acquired later by Mr. R. Owen Tudor. The place was occupied successively by dairymen, those remembered being John Duncan (who also used it as a beer house) and Samuel Bennion. The buildings were demolished about 1870.

Upon ground forming part of the last holding a villa residence named Roseneath, was erected by the Rev. Thomas Gasquoine, where he resided for a few years, being succeeded by Mr. Charles Minshall from Beechfield, by whom its name was changed to Wilmot Croft. Mr. Minshall died here in May 1882.

A little nearer Pool Road and upon the same land, another villa was erected (for his own occupation) by Mr. John Askew Roberts, and which he named Croeswylan.

Mr. Roberts, born in Oswestry, was the son of the Rev. Samuel Roberts, Congregational Minister, printer and stationer, and on the side of his mother (a

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niece of the Rev. John Whitridge of Oswestry) was descended from the family of Ann Askew, the martyr. He married Katherine, fourth daughter of the Rev. Thomas Toller of Kettering. He was founder of the Oswestry Advertiser, the originator of *Bye Gones* in that paper, and the author of the first edition of the *Gossiping Guide to Wales*. He retired in 1868, was made a Justice of the Peace in March, 1872, and died here in December, 1884, at the age of 58 years. As a Memorial to him a clock was provided by public subscription, and in 1889, placed outside the Post Office in Church Street, where it stands in trust in the Town Council, for the benefit of the town, and the Post Office authorities have accepted the care of it.

Returning down Penylan Lane, the piece of land upon the left (No. 58 on plan) was formerly a part of Maesylan, belonging to Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., but during the eighteenth century was fenced off and formed into a pleasure or recreation ground for the Rev. R. Maurice, who then occupied No. 26 (Old Vicarage), Upper Brook Street, and, it is believed, he planted the avenue of beech now standing thereon. In recent years it was attached to No. 18 in the same street, to the owner of which premises it now belongs.

We next come to a row of cottages, that until about sixty years ago stopped at No. 6, some drains taking up the site of No. 4. No. 2, now a shop, was formerly a malthouse, for many years worked by Mr. John Minnet, and subsequently, until converted about 1875, by Mr. Samuel Bennion.

No. 52 (Mr. Kirk) was in 1834 occupied by Mr. John Minnet, maltster, to whom most of the houses upon this side of the street belonged. He died in 1846, at the age of sixty-two years, and was succeeded by Mr. Edward Foulkes Eyeley, house painter. Mr. Eyeley married Sarah, daughter of Mr. Minnet, and was organist of St. Oswald's church for upwards of thirty-eight years. He disposed of his business in 1876 to Messrs. Charles Parry & Son and died in 1883.

Crossing to the other side of the street we come to No. 19, where a grocery business was in 1856 carried

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on by Mr. Thomas Evans and his wife (parents of the late Councillor George Soley Evans), and was afterwards occupied by Mr. Thomas Roberts, Assistant Overseer for Oswestry Rural, and also (in 1869) by his son Mr. George Roberts, Assistant Overseer for the town, and uncle and predecessor of our present Assistant Overseer, Mr. David Roberts.

The adjoining building was for many years a beer-house, bearing the sign of the "White Hart," and occupied successively by John Williams (1852, died 1866), Grace Williams (1867), Robert Clare Harris (1868) M. A. Edwards (1871), F. E. Hughes (1876), Edward Davies and John Edwards (1880). It is now a private house.

The smithy in this street was erected (according to inscription on lintel) in 1819, and occupied up to 1859 by Mr. Elias Phillips.

No. 3 adjoining, is a dwelling house in which the business of a tailor was conducted for upwards of fifty years by Mr. Edward Jones. For a short time, commencing in 1862, he was joined by Mr. Thomas Markey, under the style of Jones & Markey.

No. 1. It is believed that this was at one time a beer-house, known as the Raven and Bell, and kept (lastly) by Mr. Thomas Tyley before his removal to the Sun Inn. Mr. Tyley was succeeded by Mr. Evan Jones (uncle of the present occupier Mr. David Davies) who came in from No. 64.

LOWER BROOK STREET.

Turning upon the right we enter Lower Brook Street, or as named in some ancient documents and parish registers—Stryt-yr-Aber ("1682 Dec. 20. Child of Owen Jones, Stryt yr Aber, bur."), this Welsh name being given to it on account of the brook or stream which entered the street just above Lloran House, flowing openly along the north side of Upper Brook Street, across Church Street by the Sun Corner and along Lower Brook Street. This water was a source

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of annoyance and inconvenience to the residents of Lower Brook Street, and at the Quarter Sessions held on the 25th April, 1800, the following indictment was preferred against the inhabitants of the borough :—

"Town of Oswestry—John Jones, Esquire, Mayor, one of the justices of our Lord the King, assigned to keep the peace in and for the said Town of Oswestry, and also to hear and determine divers felonies, trespasses and other misdeeds committed in the said Town, by virtue of the statute in such case made and provided, upon his own proper knowledge, presents that from time whereof the memory of man is not to the contrary, there was and yet is a certain common and ancient King's highway leading from Brook Street in the said Town to Church Street in the same Town, used for all the liege subjects of our said Lord the King and his predecessors, for their horses, coaches, carts and carriages, to go, return, pass, repass, ride and labour at their free will and pleasure, and that there is a watercourse in, upon, or adjoining the said highway, which is uncovered and dangerous, so that the liege subjects of our said Lord the King, through the same way with their horses, coaches, carts and carriages cannot go, return, pass, repass, ride and labour, without great danger and common annoyance of all the liege subjects of our said Lord the King through the same way going, returning, passing, repassing and riding and labouring and against the peace of our said Lord the King, his crown and dignity, and that the Inhabitants of the Town of Oswestry aforesaid ought to make an arch or platt over the said watercourse, in testimony of which the said John Jones to these presents hath set his hand and seal &c."

The order of the Court was,

"That the said Inhabitants be fined three Pounds unless a proper platt or arch be made over the said Watercourse within the space of six weeks."

The watercourse was duly covered over with flag stones which formed a causeway or sidepath, the water, in some places, being visible between the stones, and a few openings were also made for the drawing of water by adjoining occupiers.

No. 2, Lower Brook Street (Mr. Trainer), is a picturesque old house, erected in the half-timber style, wherein dwelt Mr. Robert Roberts, familiarly known as "Roberts the Gas," and who, in the yard belonging, carried on the business of a plumber and glazier from about 1810 to 1861. He was the founder and proprietor of the gas works in the town. He relinquished business here in 1861 and died late in the same year,

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23 **No. 2, LOWER BROOK STREET.** (Page 22).

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at the age of eighty-five. The next occupier was Mr. Henry Jones, who was succeeded by Mr. James Redrobe and Councillor George Tyley.

No. 6, Tymaen (Dr. Aylmer Lewis). These premises form part of the Sweeney Estate, and at one time belonged to the noble family of Fitzalan, Earls of Arundel. In 1563, Henry, Earl of Arundel, sold it to Mr. Arthur Chambre of Petton, referred to in history as "a lazy drone of a man." In the reign of James I, a Thomas Baker of Weston Lullingfields entered Mr. Chambre's service as confidential agent, and after marrying the housekeeper, soón reversed his position and became owner of the estate. He added considerably to the property, and died in 1639, leaving a son Thomas, of whom Gough the historian wrote :—

"he was noe comely person of body, nor of great parts, and little education, butt he was very rich in lands, woods, money and goods. Howbeit hee maryed with a lovely gentlewoman of ye masculine spirit and noe meane beauty. I saw noe inducement that she had to marry him, save his riches."

Soon after his marriage with Elizabeth Fenwick, who ultimately became the dominant partner, he erected "a newe faire house at Sweeney . . . . . whoally in 16 weekes" (the present stone house was erected on the same site in 1807). "He was a great patron and benefactor to all Independent preachers, such as Vavasour Powell, who commonly preached every day of the weeke. I have heard him pray and preach foure hours together in the dining room at Sweeney, where many persons came to heare him ,and when the people departed they had every one a quarter of a twopenny bun or cake and a glass of beere of almost halfe a pint." (*Gough.*) Another preacher that was well cared for by Mr. Baker was the Rev. Rowland Nevett who was deprived of the living of Oswestry for refusing to subscribe to the Thirty Nine Articles and to use the same form of worship and same Book of Common Prayer, under the requirements of the Act of Uniformity of 1662. During the years of his ministry "the plague prevailed in Oswestry but Mr. Nevett still continued with his people and it was an opportunity of doing much good." The celebrated Philip

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Henry was also a visitor here. Mr. Nevett established at Sweeney the congregation of Protestant Dissenters, being granted a licence therefor on February 25th, 1672, and which congregation is to-day represented by the worshippers at Christ Church in this town.

Mr. Baker was sheriff in 1649, and with Mr. John Brown of Little Ness, represented this county in Cromwell's parliament, and dying without issue in 1675, left the property to his niece, Mary, wife of his adopted son Thomas, child of the before mentioned John Brown, M.P. Thomas Brown died in 1761, leaving several children. His eldest son Thomas died without issue in 1768, when the second son Edward succeeded to the estate. This Edward, who married Margaret Howell of Treflach, lived in Church Street, probably in the Caeglas mansion, was mayor of the town in 1781 and died without issue in 1794, whereupon the property passed to a deceased brother's daughter, Sarah, who in 1796 married Mr. Thomas Netherton Parker of Longden, Worcestershire, and who became the mother of Mary Parker, that in 1833 married Sir Baldwyn Leighton, father of the late Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P. (*Bye Gones.*)

Upon a stone fixed in the west gable of Ty Maen is an inscription

B
T. H.
1749

which are the initials of Thomas Brown and Hannah his wife. There is also a stone in the south wall marked

B.
E. M.
1779

which are the initials of Edward, the last male representative of the Brown family, and Margaret his wife. Probably both of these stones record some alterations and improvements carried out upon the respective dates.

Judging by the interior arrangements there is no

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doubt but that the house has served as a town residence for its owners. Mr. Stanley Leighton used to say it was called " Sweeney House."

Mr. William Roberts, solicitor, lived here up to the time of his death. He was succeeded by Mrs. Fanny Humphreys, widow of the Rev. J. O. Humphreys, who made it a " home from home " for some of the Grammar School boys. The School Chapel contains a brass plate to her memory, " erected by the boys under her charge." Afterwards and upon retirement from business, came Alderman W. H. G. Weaver, Mayor 1881 and 1882, and Justice of the Peace for both County and Borough. He died July, 1900, aged seventy-four years.

No. 7 was for many years occupied by Mr. John Miles Hales, veterinary surgeon, mayor in 1846 and dispenser and secretary of the old and new Dispensary. Mr. Hales was also secretary to the Oswestry Association for the Prevention of Crime, which was formed in 1771. The great event in connection with this Society was its annual dinner, but it has long since been defunct. Mr. Hales was followed here by Mr. John Richards (of the Pantglas family), cattle dealer, who died in 1902.

No. 9. Mr. Richard Wynne (father of the deputy parish clerk, Mr. John Wynne) was occupier in 1837. Mr. John Evans (afterwards Evans-Vaughan) also lived here for many years.

Turning upon the right we come to Leighton Place, formerly called the Old Dispensary Yard.

In 1828 a meeting of the leading gentlemen of the town and neighbourhood was held for the purpose of endeavouring to establish a Dispensary. Donations amounting to 160 guineas were promised at the time, and on the 1st May, 1829, the first Dispensary was opened in what is now No. 8, Leighton Place, upon the front of which is a stone inscribed T.N.P. 1825. (Mr. Thomas Netherton Parker of Sweeney). The surgeons who then offered their services were Messrs. Pryce Morris, Salop Road, B. M. Cockerill, Bailey Street, E. D. Bennion, Castle House, and Peploe

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Cartwright, Church Street, with Mr, J. M. Hales as Dispenser and Secretary, the institution being mainly supported by public collections.

Adjoining was Mr. Hales' horse repository and a smithy. Mr. Thomas Kent, a coach builder, removed to the last premises from Beatrice Street in 1863.

Returning to the street, No. 12, the first house upon the right bears an inscription,

E.
J. R.
1741

The shoring in front is a recent addition. A well known schoolmaster, Mr. William Cullis, came here from Selattyn in 1852. In advertisements he styled himself " Writing master to the British Royal Family, and in prospect to the Imperial Prince of France," which honour he gained by the acceptance in high quarters of very elaborate Copy Books with head-lines written by himself, on hand-made paper, all superbly bound in silk velvet with silver mountings. He also published a *School Book of Help*, that was dedicated to the Hon. Mrs. Kenyon of Pradoe. Those who knew him testify that he was an excellent teacher, remarkably strict, but rather quick tempered and with a great liking for beer. When living at Selattyn, and after a glass too much, he would sometimes forget even where he lived. After wandering about the roads in the dark he would call at a cottage in despair, and ask " Can you tell me my good woman where Mr. Cullis lives ? A most respectable man." " Why, aren't you Mr. Cullis himself ? " would be the reply. " Yes, yes," he would testily rejoin, " that's quite true, but I want to know where Mr. Cullis lives ! " Later he annouced that a work entitled " Warnings and Kind Advice to Drunkards " (in which he had the advantage of writing from personal experience) was in the press. He died in 1860 at the age of fifty-three, His widow (grand-daughter of Thomas Jones, the village blacksmith of Pantglas, Selattyn, who, assistedby his seven daughters, made the ornamental gates of Chirk Castle,) afterwards

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LOWER BROOK STREET, 1830.

LOWER BROOK STREET, 1920.

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kept a ladies' school at 17, Parry's Buildings, Castle Street.

Upon the site of No. 18, which in 1845 belonged to Messrs. Poole & Haslam (Reps. of Mr. William Griffiths, Mayor 1766) there stood a dilapidated half-timber and straw-thatched lodging house kept by William Foulkes, a timber hauler, and this, until 1854, was the last residence upon the south side of the street.

Dispensary and Baths. The house, No. 8, Leighton Place, being found too small for carrying on the good work of the institution, it was decided in 1852 to erect a new Dispensary with Bath-rooms attached. Plans were prepared by Mr. R. Kyrke Penson and the new premises opened on 1st May, 1854, the cost being defrayed by public subscriptions, to which were added £500 from the accumulated funds of the institution. The committee and officers were Mr.W. Ormsby Gore (president), Mr. Edmund Wright, Rev. G. Carew, Mr. R. K. Penson, Mr. Thomas Minshall, Mr. Thomas Lovett, Mr. T. L. Longueville, Rev. S. Donne, Rev. J. Luxmoore, Mr. J. V. Lovett, Mr. R. J. Venables, Mr. Edward Williams, sen., Mr. John Croxon, and Mr. J. T. Jones (Treasurer). Surgeons—Mr. Cartwright, Dr. Fuller, Mr. Blaikie, and Dr. Harvey Williams.

The road from this point down to the gas works was known as the " Road to Salop," for the London to Holyhead mail used to enter the town this way when the Post Office was at the Wynnstay Arms Hotel. It is stated in *Bye Gones* that during a gale in 1816 a tree fell suddenly across this road, and that upon the branches being lopped the tree righted itself. The contributor says he very well remembered the circumstance and the great hurry there was to clear the tree away because it lay across the road which the mail would have to pass over a few hours later.

Open pastures came up to the Dispensary boundary as late as 1876. About that time the land was offered for sale by auction and purchased by the late Mr. Edward Jones of Brook Street House, and re-sold as building sites.

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The memorial stone of the Welsh Wesleyan Chapel, which adjoins the Dispensary premises, was laid on Sept. 21st, 1877, by Mr. J. Pryce Jones, Principal of Grove Park School, Wrexham, formerly of the Willow Street Academy, and a local preacher with the English Wesleyan Methodists in this town. That would be about the last public service performed by Mr. Jones, for he died in the November following. The building was completed and opened for public worship in July, 1878, the members removing here from Penylan Lane.

The houses upon the south side of Victoria Road, from the Chapel to Cricket Field have all been erected and Victoria Street and Queen's Park formed since 1877.

The land bounded by the present Park Street, Salop Road to Trinity Church, the whole of Roft Street, and Victoria Road down to opposite entrance to Cricket Field, had not a dwelling upon it in 1795, when it was principally garden ground. In a reference to a map made in that year the whole of it is named " Roft-y-Sputty," or Croft of the Hospitallers, whereon, in Catholic times, there probably stood a religous house or place for the temporary accommodation or shelter of travellers. In *Eyton's Shropshire* there is a reference to the foundation charters of the Hospital of St. John at Oswestry, and it is recited that Reynerus, bishop of St. Asaph (1186-1225), purchased the site and precinct of an intended hospital, selecting for the purpose land which then belonged to Oswestry Church, and thereon founded his hospital, afterwards bestowing the general administration thereof upon the Knights Hospitallers of Halston. John Davies' reference to the founder is :—

" Reynerus, beinge Bishop of St. Asaph, in the reigne of Henry the Second, hadd a house att or neare unto Oswestry, of ould called Oswaldestre, where hee much resided," and of the hospital— " only this I finde in the 42nd Roll of Edward III that the Hospituim formerly of the Monks of the White Monastery, with all its belongings, to be in the hands of our Lord the King."

In a Grant made by Queen Elizabeth in 1560, of the Commendatory or Preceptory of Halston, to

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George Lee, alias Legh, of Shrewsbury, merchant, and Thomas Bowyer, of Salop, tradesman, and their heirs for ever, in consideration of a sum to be paid to the Royal Treasury, there was included in the appurtenances :—" One close of land called Croft y Spitty . . . in the township of Oswestry." (*Bye Gones.*)

Returning from the corner of Park Street, the first house upon the right side of Victoria Road was erected early in the sixties, and the foundry, by Mr. Job Ellis, grandfather of Mr. T. H. Ellis, Salop Road, in 1870.

Adjoining the latter, and where now stands the Victoria Rooms, was a building of bricks and timber, used as a theatre. It is marked upon the plan of 1795, but performances were advertised in the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* as far back as 1775, and in the record of proceedings at the Borough Quarter Sessions held in 1812, appears an order " That George Stanton be permitted and licensed to occupy the Theatre in this town as usual for the ensuing year." The last time Stanton and his company of comedians appeared here was " for a few nights in March 1818," permission for which he obtained at the Quarter Sessions in January 1818. His next application, which was in August 1819, was for permission " to appear in the *new* theatre " (in Willow Street) " during the coming season." The building remained for many years afterwards and was chiefly engaged by travelling performers.

It is interesting to note the method, in use at that period, for conveying the ladies of the town to these performances. A very old native relates that the town watchmen — Tommy Roberts and Richard Thomas, dressed in plain livery, with lanterns at their side, handled a sedan chair, calling upon their patrons in turn. They were much in demand by Mrs. Withers, (Mr. William Smale's predecessor at No. 1, Church Street,) and upon wet Sundays it was carried into the church, first with one and then with another.

The present building—Victoria Rooms, was erected in 1864 by a Private Liability Company, and

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opened by the Earl of Powis on 15th September of that year.

Turning into Roft Street, which for some time went under the name of New Church Street, the first houses built upon the right were those known as Victoria Place belonging to the Bickerton family. It was from these three houses that the Public Rooms, Foundry and road leading to Gas Works were afterwards named.

No. 27, formerly approached by about four steps that projected into the street, was occupied by the Rev. F. Cashell in 1855, and afterwards, in turn, by Miss Bickerton, Mr. Samuel Davies, draper, and Mr. William Martin. During the latter's occupation the site of the steps was acquired by the Corporation, a side path formed and the ground floor entrance brought down to the street level.

Keeping along the right side of Roft Street, the other houses, except Victoria Parade erected in 1865 are of a very recent date.

Returning — the cottages known as Croxon Square appear upon the town plan of 1795. About eighty years ago a children's dame school was kept in a room at the rear, by Mrs. Kitty Talbot.

The land from the corner of Smithfield to the Wynnstay Hotel stable entrance was formerly an orchard belonging to The Lawn, Church Street.

From the point last mentioned to No. 5, Lower Brook Street was one property belonging to Mr. John Jones, sen. (Mayor 1799), Brook Street House, and acquired by him from Mr. John Howells of Trefarclawdd, malster, Mr. John Jones of Church Street, baker (died 1819) and his son Mr. David Jones, shoemaker and the Reps. of Mr. Thomas Salter, timber merchant.

The first house in Roft Street was for many years occupied by Mr. William Jones, painter.

The next was tenanted by several dairy-men in succession, viz. :—Messrs. John Davies (1845), Giles Davies (1862), Allen Roberts (who removed to Weston Rhyn and afterwards Buckley Farm) and John

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Griffiths, who was succeeded by Mr. Isaac Williams, builder. The house has since been much altered and a shop constructed out of part of it.

No. 58 was the residence of Mr. James Swift, manager (1845) of the tannery at the rear, Mr. David Roberts, Assistant Overseer of Oswestry Rural also lived here.

Lower Brook Street. The cottages Nos. 9—15 were erected in 1840. It was at No. 11 that Mr. Thomas George, the parish clerk resided. Mr. George, who was a native of Shrewsbury, succeeded Mr. George Evans (father of Mr. John Evans-Vaughan) in 1856. He served under three successive vicars, and died in 1888.

At the rear of these cottages, and extending to nearly Brook Street House, was a tannery, worked by Messrs. John Jones (1791). John Rogers (1828) and Evan Hughes. Soon after Mr. Hughes' retirement in 1875 the premises were offered for sale and purchased by Mr. Edward Jones, who then lived at Brook Street House. He afterwards transformed the yard into a garden, and erected the stone wall extending from the old boundary to cottage No. 15.

Next comes an old malthouse, which for many years was worked by Mr. John Minnet of Pentrepoeth. It was in this building that the annual dinner of the Sun Friendly Society usually took place.

No. 7, Brook Street House, (Dr. Cartwright) was erected by Mr. John Jones, mayor 1799 and 1825. It is stated that Mr. Jones began life a poor man, and worked for an uncle who left him some money. About that time the Snailbeach lead mines were not doing very well, and Mr. Richard Salusbury, mayor 1786, and landlord of the (now) Wynnstay Arms Hotel, sold his interest in them to Mr. Jones. Almost immediately the mines began to prosper, and Mr. Jones made a large fortune. (*Records of the Corporation.*) He died in 1846 at the age of eighty-six, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. Thomas Jones, who died in 1864.

A large tombstone to the memory of this family

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stands in the old churchyard near the entrance gate from Welsh Walls. One of them was a benefactor to the poor of the town. At a public Enquiry held in November, 1898, the Commissioner stated that the charity was then represented by £108 4s. 5d. Consols, standing in the names of Messrs. John Jones and H. H. Jones, executors of the late Mr. John Jones of Brook Street House.

Mr. Edward Jones, cabinet maker, became tenant early in the sixties, and owner, by purchase, in 1877, and remained here until his removal to Glentworth, Morda, where he died in 1904.

Nos. 5 and 3 in the beginning of last century belonged to Mr. Richard Moody Kynaston, of the Bell Inn, and one of them was occupied by his son-in-law, Mr. James Salter, (son of Mr. Joseph Salter, Llwyd's Mansion) timber merchant, who died in 1838. In 1859 the occupier of No. 5 was Mrs. Jones Rogers (draper), in 1870 Mr. Templeton, a dentist from Brighton, his successor being Mr. John Cawley who previously kept the Wynnstay Arms Hotel.

No. 3 was occupied by Mr. Charles Eyeley, son of Charles Eyeley, a scene painter at the old Theatre, and conductor of the band attached to the Companies of Volunteers in Oswestry, about one hundred years ago. Mr. Eyeley was a successful painter of portraits in oils, and an accomplished violinist, and with his brothers, Mr. Edward Eyeley, organist of the Parish Church, and Mr. Joseph (afterwards Dr.) Eyeley, and his sisters, gave periodical concerts in the Assembly rooms of the town. These performances were very popular, but if it was that something went wrong, such as the snapping of a string, it was not unusual for Mr. Charles Eyeley to say words rather audibly. He died at Llanymynech in 1900 at the age of eighty-eight.

UPPER BROOK STREET.

Upper Brook Street (South side)—Corner Shop (Co-Operative Society). These premises at one time must have been a dairy, for there is inscribed upon the

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stone lintels of the cellar openings on the Pool Road side, (but which are now below the level of the side path and recently plastered over) the words " Cheese and Dairy Room " and " Dairy." These inscriptions were necessary for the exemption of the owners of such openings from a demand made on account of light and air which people were called upon to pay in the form of what was known as the Window Tax, a tax enacted in 1695 to defray the expenses of a deficiency in the re-coinage of gold, and which was kept up until 1851, when the Inhabited House Duty was substituted for it. When persons increased or reduced their window openings, notice thereof had to be given to the assessor for the district. This tax, in Oswestry town, for the year 1777 amounted to £104 18s. 3d. These premises, for some years previous to 1861, were occupied by Messrs. John and Joseph Evans, (sons of Mr. Richard Evans, grocer of Dinas Mawddwy) as grocers and seedsmen. Mr. John Evans, who had been manager of the ironmongery business of Messrs. John Minshall & Co., Bailey Street, married (in 1852) Miss Morgan of Maesnewydd, and in 1861 removed to Talybont and afterwards to Aberystwyth where he died in 1893. His son, Mr. John Evans, is a practising solicitor at Aberystwyth. In 1861 Mr. Joseph Evans removed to No. 20, Church Street, but to secure the custom raised here he kept the premises, held upon lease, locked up for some years. Then came Mr. Samuel Gittins, grocer, who occupied it up to the time of his death in 1883, when he was succeeded by his nephew, Mr. Henry Clay Gittins. It was from the occupation by the two latter that the place got named " Gittins' Corner."

No. 2 (Mr. Randles) was formerly a public house called the " Green Dragon," which in 1845 was kept by John Evans, afterwards James Davies (1852), and Robert Davies (1856).

As a private house it was the first residence of Mr. John Cottam. Mr. Cottam, a dental surgeon of the Royal College of Surgeons, Ireland, was born at Preston in 1829. After the Chartist riots in 1848 he

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emigrated to America, but in 1867 returned again to England. Upon his return he resided in London for a short time, where he introduced the system of applying nitrous-oxide gas for painless operations in dentistry. In 1868 he took up his residence in Oswestry, and after two years here he removed to Caxton House, Beatrice Street. A subsequent occupier was Mr. Oswald Fox, who afterwards removed to No. 8 and from thence to the Savings Bank.

No. 4 was also a public house under the sign of "Britannia Inn," and in 1852 was managed by the owner Mr. Richard Wood, who was succeeded in the following year by Mr. Richard Kilner, but it had only a short existence, and on becoming a private house it was occupied by Mrs. Jane Wood, upholstress, up to the time of her death, about 1876.

The houses, No. 6 to 24 inclusive, formed one property, and in the middle of the eighteenth century were owned by Mr. John Stoakes, timber merchant, (buried at Oswestry in 1805) and a free burgess, who in 1783 settled the estate on his son, Mr. George Stoakes, upon his marriage with Frances, daughter of Mr. Thomas Whitehurst that kept an inn near where now stand the Chirk Castle gardens on the Wrexham road, Chirk, and from whom came the names Whitehurst Gate and Whitehurst Halt by which the Llangollen Road station on the G.W. Railway is now known. Mr. George Stoakes was also owner of land on the north side of the Racecourse Road, upon which, about 1789, he built the residence now known as The Mount, but then called "Mount Pleasant." His daughter, Frances Catherine married Mr. Edward Roberts, sugar baker, of Chester, and upon the death, in 1872, of their son, Mr. Edward Stoakes Roberts, the property came into the market, and the lots, in most cases, were secured by the then occupiers.

No. 6. The occupier for many years was Mr. Charles Pratt, butcher, the part fronting the street being a shop. He died in 1874, when the premises underwent alteration for the purpose of a preparatory school kept by Miss Whittaker.

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No. 10 was the residence and office of Mr. John Fox, auctioneer and accountant, before he went to the Savings Bank House in 1858. For several years afterwards it was the office of Messrs. Thos. and W. H. Hill, auctioneers and land agents, becoming a private house again in 1880.

Nos. 16, 18, 20 and 22 have always been occupied by some of the leading people of the town, among whom may be mentioned the Rev. Turner Edwards and his son Mr. James Edwards, Mr. Isaac Porter, Mrs. Jones Rogers, Mr. T. L. Longueville (before going to the Mount or Felton Grange), Mr. John Leah, Dr. John Wynne, Mr. Joseph Jones, Alderman Thomas Hill and his son Mr. T. Weaver Hill, Mr. George Williams, Mrs. Leah, Mr. John Evans-Vaughan, and Mr. F. G. Buller Swete.

Mr. T. L. Longueville just referred to, son of Mr. T. Longueville Jones, solicitor, was born at Bellan House in 1803. He assumed the family name of Longueville, and in 1827 joined his father as solicitor, under the style of Longueville & Son. In 1838 he married his cousin, Anne, daughter of Mr. Charles Thomas Jones, Old Bank, and by her became father of Mr. T. Longueville, now of Llanforda Hall, and grandfather of Captain Francis Longueville, M.C., D.S.O., who, in company with General Campbell, V.C., played such a gallant part in the celebrated charge of the Coldstream Guards in the late war, when the General (then Lieut.-Colonel) rallied his men to the sound of the huntsman's horn. Mr. Longueville died at Penylan in 1888, at the age of eighty-five. He was mayor of the town in 1832 (the last under the Charter of Charles II), was elected an alderman some years afterwards, and continued in office up to the time of his death. To commemorate this unprecedented long service, a painting of him was unveiled in the Council Chamber in 1883. Mr. Longueville had been associated from his youth up with every movement that was noblest and best for the good of his fellow townsmen.

Between No. 20 and the Old Vicarage there were two small dwellings, in one of which lived Mr. John

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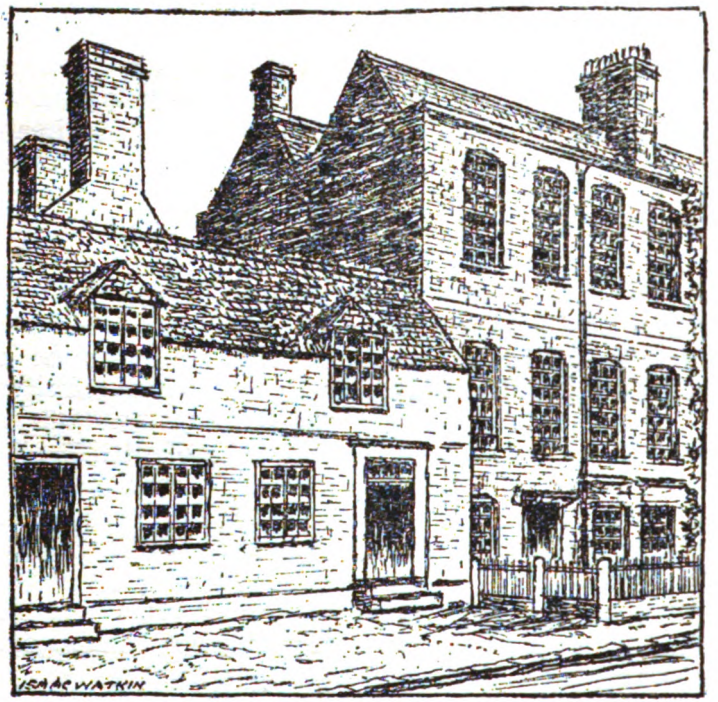
Price, florist. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. John William Price, one of the relieving officers of the Oswestry Incorporation, and an advanced botanist, who died in 1897. Soon afterwards the property was acquired by Mr. W. H. Spaull (mayor 1877), who demolished the old houses and erected the present residence, The Gables, and an office.



COTTAGES (demolished) and OLD VICARAGE, Upper Brook Street.

No. 26, The Old Vicarage, called so as to distinguish it from the Vicarage in Church Street, purchased in 1871.

The first mention of a vicarage is in a charter of 1223, when the first vicar, Philip Fitz Leofth, was instituted. In the taxation thereof was included " three messuages in Oswestry " (*Eyton*) as residences for the vicar and his two chaplains as curates. The next reference appears in a Terrier of the belongings of the church, taken in 1685, by the vicar and church-

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wardens, " by and with the information of the Antient Inhabitants," which is—" Besides the churchyard, there are joyned to it two little platts of ground belonging to the Vicar, with a pool between them. On the one of those two platts of ground formerly stood a Vicarage-house, which was burnt and demolished in the late wars, vidt. in the year of our Lord 1644, or thereabouts."

Cathrall, in his *History of Oswestry* says (although he gives no authority) that the old vicarage house stood on the north side of the churchyard, and that the site was exchanged with the late Mr. Lloyd, Swan Hill, by the then vicar, for what is now the new churchyard, and which became the Vicar's Croft. It was not until 1748 that anything was done towards providing another residence. In that year Mrs. Godolphin gave certain premises in Cross Street (now Messrs. Gough & Lacey's Wine Vaults, Nos. 12 and 14 in that street) to the use of the Vicar of Oswestry for the time being, provided he should live there. The house however was considered unsuitable, and as time went on there arose much dissatisfaction among the parishioners, and a contributor to *Bye Gones* says that in 1820, it was one of the standing jokes of the town to ask " When *shall* we have a Vicarage ? "

In about a couple of years afterwards Mr. John Croxon, banker, offered to exchange these commodious and more conveniently situated premises, of which he was the owner, for those in Cross Street. The Bishop of the Diocese was thereupon petitioned, and he appointed the Rev. John Wynne Eyton, vicar of Llangollen, the Rev. William Wynne Owen, vicar of Llanymowddwy, Mr. John Freeman Milward Dovaston, barrister-at-law, and Mr. Thomas Longueville Jones, solicitor, to inquire into and report upon the matter. Mr. Robert Williams, in whom the Cross Street property was vested, died in 1763, and as his legal representative was not known and there was no evidence that any person had succeeded him in the trust, application had to be made for the nomination of Mr. William Ormsby Gore, the representative of the

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donor, Mrs. Godolphin, as Trustee, for the purpose of carrying out the exchange. The deed of ratification bearing date the 19th June 1823, was between Wm. Ormsby Gore (a trustee nominated) of the first part, John Croxon of Oswestry of the second part, Richard Croxon of Oswestry of the third part and the Right Reverend Father in God, John, by Divine permission Lord Bishop of St. Asaph, of the fourth part, these premises being described therein as :—"All that messuage burgage or dwellinghouse with the garden, forecourt, hereditaments and appurtenances thereto belonging situate lying and being in the town of Oswestry aforesaid, on the south side of a certain street there called Church Street in a certain part thereof called Street yr Aber otherwise Upper Brook Street, and in the tenure or occupation of John Truss or his undertenants, Also all that seat or sitting place in or near the chancel of the parish church of Oswestry aforesaid." To the use of the said William Ormsby Gore his heirs and assigns for ever nevertheless for and upon such and the same trusts intents and purposes and under powers as set forth in the deed of 2nd March 1748 executed by Mrs. Godolphin.

The Rev. Thomas Salwey, vicar from 1825 to 1871, occupied for a few years, and afterwards (1855) by Miss Maria Edmunds who kept a school for girls. In 1860 the occupier was the senior curate, the Rev. Llewelyn Wynne Jones (father of the present Dean of St. Asaph), but upon his departure that year to take up the living of Connah's Quay he was succeeded by the Rev. George Cuthbert (junior curate since 1853) removing in from No. 47 in this street, and who from that date to 1871, had the entire charge of the parish, for the then vicar was not in residence. In 1873 he was presented to the living of Aberhafesp and subsequently (1880) of Llanllwchaiarn, where he died in 1884. Before leaving for Aberhafesp he was presented with a clock and a purse of £750 as tokens of the esteem in which all classes—and all creeds—held him in the town of Oswestry.

Mr. Cuthbert, who belonged to the low Evan-

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39 T. N. Henshaw.

OSWESTRY, from near Broom Hall Entrance Gate. (About 1845).

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gelical party of those times, was one of the most saintly and apostolic of parsons, and an eloquent preacher, always extempore. He published lectures on "The Perils of the Young Man," and "Bible Characters," and also "A Series of Advent Sermons." But it is for his warm-heartedness towards and his ministrations among the poor of the town and neighbourhood that he will be remembered and honoured. His friends, however, sometimes played tricks with him, for Mr. Charles Sabine, sen., used to relate that whilst coming down the Broad Walk one bitterly cold winter's day with a deep snow on the ground, he met "friend Cuthbert" just entering the gateway from Church Street, looking rather downcast. "Ah, good day, Cuthbert," said he, "You're just in time. I'm so glad to have met you." "Well, friend," enquired Mr. Cuthbert, "What's the matter?" "Why," said Mr. Sabine, "I've just come from a scene of misery and desolation such as I have seldom before witnessed. Fancy, in this Christian country, and in weather like this, two poor old people without a particle of food or fuel, both kneeling in the attitude of prayer before a bare table, apparently their sole article of furniture! I assure you the stony gaze of that poor old couple will not soon be forgotten by me." "Is it possible?" exclaimed the rev. gentleman, whose benevolent feelings were thoroughly roused, "and pray who are these two poor unfortunates?" "*Mr. and Mrs. Yale,*" returned Mr. Sabine, in a stage whisper, as he hurried away, leaving poor Mr. Cuthbert in a brown study. Recovering himself, and finding his friend had vanished, the good old parson started off in search of "Mr. and Mrs. Yale," and not until he had perambulated several streets, making enquiries by the way, did he suspect that friend Sabine had only been viewing the stone effigy of Mr. and Mrs. Yale in the Old Church, commonly known as "Yale's Monument." (*Owen's Reminiscences.*)

When the Cottage Hospital was opened Mr. Cuthbert was in the habit of paying much kind attention to the patients. One of these was an old

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man from near the Racecourse, whose trade was that of a besom maker, and with him Mr. Cuthbert often engaged in prayer. This continued for some time, and one day Mr. Cuthbert inquired of the old man if he ever prayed himself. " Its no use my praying for you," he said, " unless you pray for yourself," but he could get no reply. At last, being pressed for some response, the old man said, " Con you make besoms ? ' " Why, no," said the somewhat disconcerted visitor. " Then I con," replied the sick man, " every mon to his trade."

The Lymes, in Church Street, having been secured as a Vicarage in 1871, a scheme was drawn up in 1874, under which these premises became vested in the first Lord Harlech (as representative of the late Mrs. Godolphin) and were let to the curates, who paid a rent that was set aside to form a fund for the maintenance and repair of the fabric. The vicar, the Rev. M. B. Lutener, is now in residence here.

No. 30, Old Vicarage House, with the Cottage adjoining, belonged to Mr. Boydell Croxon in 1840. The house at that time was in the occupation of Mrs. Menlove, and in 1862 by Mr. Richards. Soon after the latter date the premises were purchased by Alderman Thomas Hill, and his son, Mr. William Henry Hill, went into residence in 1867, continuing until 1888, when he left for Welshpool. His successor was Mr. Martin B. Lawford, until his removal to Trewern, about 1891, when Alderman Thomas Whitfield of Willow House became the purchaser, and occupied until his death in 1913. The cottage belonging was for several generations occupied by the Worton family.

Adjoining the last premises were several old cottages belonging to Mrs. Clara Evans, some fronting the street and others (straw thatched) in the yard at end of No. 32. These were purchased by Mr. W. H. Hill, partly demolished, and No. 32 converted therefrom. In the western gable of this is a stone inscribed

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S.A.
1724.

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The ground upon which the Girls' School and Church House stand formed part of the same property and was known as Crutchloe's gardenr.

The land between the Church House and Maesylan, estimated at four acres one rood, is called Cae nef, or Heaven field, and it said to be the spot upon which Oswald was slain. In 1795 it either belonged to, or was in the occupation of Mrs. Hall,

Upon this ground, and close up to the site of Church House, there stood a timber framed and straw-thatched cottage, in which lived a well-known character named Richard Price, chimney sweeper, commonly known as "Dick the Sweep" and who, according to a writer upon "Former Days" in *Bye Gones*, was "a man little in stature but great in action." He lived in the days when tetotalism was not fashionable, and there was in circulation a portrait of him in his sooty robes, in the act of raising a glass of foamed ale to his lips. When the worse for liquor he played many an odd prank, and Mr. T. Owen, in his *Reminiscences*, relates that Dick on one occasion when going a short journey by rail, with brush and bag, to do some work in the country, bought a first-class ticket at the station, and was about to enter a carriage where some rather stylish ladies were seated. Of course the guard was called and Dick was seized as an intruder. When he produced his ticket the officials became dumb and appealed to the station master, who after some trouble and a good deal of diplomatic tact, effected a compromise. But Dick had another and better side to his character, for, says the writer on "Former Days," he was once sent to America to recapture a runaway debtor, and although much inferior in size, he collared and brought back his man, who, if his conscience troubled him must have thought from the colour of his captor that "Old Nick" instead of "Old Dick" was upon his track.

Next comes the Roman Catholic Church, upon the foundation stone of which is inscribed :—"This foundation stone was solemnly blessed and laid by the Right Reverend Edward Knight, Bishop of Shrews-

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bury, July 6th, 1889." The reredos within the church consists of oak carving designed by the late Rev. John Parker, Vicar of Llanyblodwel, that formerly stood over the pulpit and reading desk of Trinity Church, Salop Road. The building, dedicated to Our Lady the Help of Christians and St. Oswald, was consecrated for public worship in 1890. In addition to the Church, which stands next the road, there is a priest's house on the south side of it, with a sacristy forming means of communication between the two. On the east side, and nearer the town, is an elementary school and class room together with a residence for the Sisters having charge. The buildings are on a site of about two-thirds of an acre, the whole being the gift of Mr. and Mrs. T. Longueville of Llanforda. Mrs. (Mary Frances) Longueville died on 8th July, 1910, at the age of fifty-nine, and was buried in an enclosure at the west end of the church.

The first Catholic Mission Chapel in the town, since the Reformation, was founded at Cripplegate in 1864, wherein, on the 5th December, 1882, took place the first Roman Catholic wedding in the town since the same period.

The Grammar School was erected in place of the old building adjoining St. Oswald's churchyard.

In A *Souvenir*, published in 1907, it is stated that soon after 1772 it was found that the old schoolhouse being insufficient and inconvenient, " it was resolved that a more spacious and suitable edifice should be erected," and Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, Bart., (by deed dated June 12th, 1779) gave for that purpose, the leasehold for ten thousand years, of " a field called Cae'r Groes, containing eight acres of land within the liberties and town of Oswestry," subject to a charge of twelve pounds a year, since redeemed.

Caer' Groes, or field of the cross, extends from Penylan road to Oswald's Well, and owes its name to the tradition that it was upon this spot that Oswald set up the cross before which he interceded previous to the historic battle of Maserfield in 642, and possibly, to the action of Penda, the barbarian victor, in cutting

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42 THE GRAMMAR SCHOOL, 1855. (Page 42).

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the body of the slain king into pieces and sticking them on crosses or stakes dispersed over this ground, as so many trophies, or, according to the ancient verses that relate the legend, his head and hands only were exposed :—

> " Three crosses, rais'd at Penda's dire commands,
> Bore Oswald's royal head and mangled hands,
> To stand a sad example to the rest."

In addition to the gift of the land Sir Watkin also headed the subscription list with two hundred guineas.

The new house and school room were built under the inspection of the Rev. C. A. Tisdale, the then master. In the *Selattyn Register* it is noted that " The new School House at Oswestry was finished in the year 1776, Mr. Tisdale, sch. master."

The house, however, although covered in, was left in an unfinished state when Mr. Tisdale resigned in 1780. His follower, the Rev. Eusebius Edwards, only occupied the rooms that had been finished, and it was left to his successor, the Rev. (afterwards Dr.) James Donne, one of the minor Canons of Chester, who was appointed to the mastership in 1796, to complete the work. It is recorded that Dr. Donne converted part of the schoolroom into a dining room for his pupils, and the other portion into a private dining room, built a new and larger schoolroom with a dormitory over, and other offices, in doing which he spent upwards of £1000 of his own private money. He also recovered possession of certain endowments that had been lost. He was mayor of the town in 1805 and held the mastership until 1833. (*Contributions.*)

The School Chapel was built in 1863 at a cost of about £1400, the opening sermon being preached by the Rev. W. W. How (afterwards Bishop of Wakefield) Whittington. An organ was erected in a gallery built for the purpose at the west end of the chapel, upon the front of which is a brass plate inscribed :— " Erected 1885 to the memory of Colonel Burnaby member of this school, killed at Abu Klea January 17th, 1885."

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The chapel contains stained glass windows to the memory of (1) Emma Christiana wife of the Rev. Ambrose Short, master 1863-73, (2) Lieut. John Edwards Donne and the Rev. Robert James Donne, M.A., old scholars and grandsons of Dr. Donne, and Alexander Fletcher Jones, B.A., another old scholar, and (3) George Cobley, 31 years assistant master, also tablets to Charles Cartwright Ellis, L.R.C.P., M.R.C.S. by the staff of St. George's Hospital, London, and to Mrs. Humphreys of Tymaen, widow of the Rev. J. O. Humphreys, "by the boys under her charge."

In 1878 a new wing was added to the school at a cost of £4184, which was defrayed by public subscriptions and the sale of a portion of the school property.

Other additions and improvements, carried out since, include a Laboratory, presented in 1906 by an old boy, Mr. Richard Bill Smale.

The school is now managed by Governors appointed under a scheme approved by the Charity Commissioners, in accordance with the Endowed Schools Act, 1874.

In the hollow ground upon the north side of Cae'r Groes is situate Oswald's Well, which is supplied by a spring flowing from the elevated ground beyond it. The tradition attached to it, set out in *Oswald's Well Magazine* (S. Roberts, Oswestry, 1847) is as follows :—

"It happened that once when Oswald was sitting at dinner, on the holy day of Easter, with Bishop Aidan, whom he brought from Scotland to instruct his subjects in the mysteries of the Christian faith, that a silver dish, full of dainties, was set before him, and they were just ready to bless the bread, when the servant, whom he had appointed to relieve the poor, came in on a sudden, and told the King that a great multitude of needy persons were sitting in the streets begging alms. He immediately ordered the meat set before him to be carried to the poor, and the silver dish to be cut in pieces and divided among them. At which sight the bishop, much taken with such an act of piety, laid hold of Oswald's right hand, and said, 'May this hand never perish.'"

A benediction destined to be fulfilled, for the hand which was thus blessed, with its arm, remain to this day free from taint of corruption, for when the pious monarch was slain on Cae Nef (near Maesylan), an eagle lighted on his body, tore off his arm, and flying

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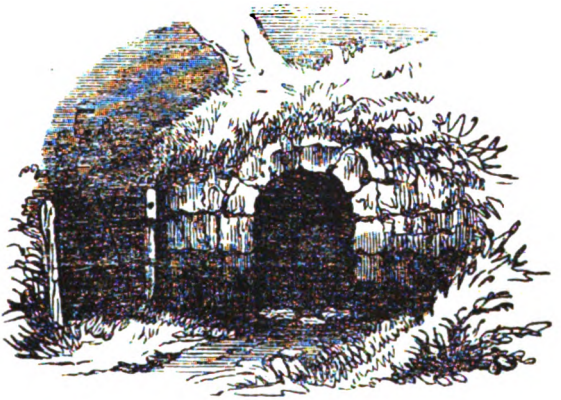
off with it, fell down and perished on the spot, where a spring of water gushed up, and which to this day is flowing, and very appropriately bears the name of Oswald's Well.



OSWALD'S WELL.

The water is believed to contain medicinal properties, and Grose, in writing of the Well, refers to an opinion which was at one time current, that if a shirt or shift was taken off a sick person, and thrown into this well, it would show whether the person would recover or die, for if it floated it denoted the recovery of the party, but if it sank there remained no hope of their life, and to reward the saint for his intelligence, it was usual to tear off a rag of the garment and leave it hanging on the briars thereabouts.

The well is a small squared cavity in a recess made of stone and is arched over. At the back there is a sculptured head of King Oswald, once "banded by a royal fillet." For some years the ancient arch was filled up with woodwork, and the water obtained through a pump fixed outside, but in 1907 its restoration was undertaken by the Corporation, when the face was partly rebuilt, the opening protected with iron grating, and the approach thereto greatly improved.

The commencement of the north side of Upper Brook Street remains as shown upon Price's map of

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the town, published in 1815, the top house being still gable-wise to the road.

In 1845 the houses No. 58–48, belonged to Mrs. Martha Shiel, who occupied one of them. At No. 51 was a confectionery business, carried on in the sixties by Mrs. Margaret Williams, and was much patronized by the Grammar School boys of that period. Mrs. Williams died in 1880 aged eighty-one.

Mr. Lazarus Venables, assistant overseer, who in 1845 married Eleanor, widow of the late Mr. Edward Jones, White Horse Hotel, was the occupier of No. 50, in 1855.

No. 47 (Miss Whitfield). This in 1845 was the residence of Mr. Thomas N. Henshaw, a writing master at the Grammar School. He was succeeded by the Rev. George Cuthbert, the Old Vicarage being at the time occupied by the senior curate. Another occupier was Mr. Rieunier, a French Master at the Grammar School. He will be remembered as being about the first in the town to ride a tricycle or velocipede. The machine used had wheels of timber, with iron tyres and a high back wicker-work seat. Mr. Rieunier married Miss Jackson of Willow Street, and died at Gobowen in 1897.

No. 46 (Old Brewery) was in 1845 occupied by Mr. Robert Davies, who was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Evans. The licence after that was allowed to lapse until about 1874, when Mr. George Roberts, Assistant Overseer, obtained a renewal. After Mr. Roberts' death in 1887 the business was carried on by Mr. Thomas Hughes.

No. 36—"Welsh Harp Inn." The owner in 1845 was Mr. Edward Morris, and the occupier Mr. Richard Hughes. Since then the following have lived there :—Messrs. Charles Thomas (before taking the Fox Inn), Robert Humphreys (1862), William Gilbert (1867), George Ferrington (1870), Edward Jones (1872), George Dyke (1877), Miss Emma Dyke (1881), and Mr. John Davies.

No. 35. The occupier in 1872 was Mr. Edward Holland, his successor being "Betsy" Hughes, who

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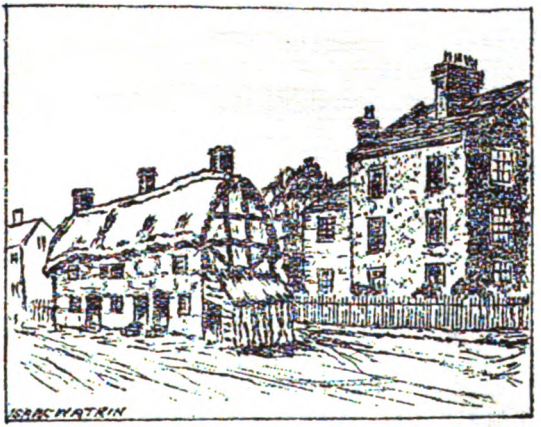
catered chiefly for the boys from the Grammar School,

No. 33 was for a generation occupied by Mr. John Williams ,tailor, No. 31 (a small shop) by Mrs. Ann Lewis and her daughter Mrs. William Brentnall, and No. 17 by Mr. Arthur Clayton, boot dealer.

Nos. 15, 13, 11 and 9. Upon the site of these, until about thirty years ago, were some very ancient looking stone-built cottages, out of line with the others, and approached by steps, that in 1845 belonged to Mr. Ralph Fox, who carried on a grocery business in one of them. Mr. Fox died in 1858 and was succeeded by Mrs. Mary Gough.



YALE'S COTTAGES (opposite Lloran House), demolished 1865.

Upon a triangular piece of ground of seven perches in extent, part of which now forms the back approach to Lloran House, there stood, until 1865. three timber framed and straw covered cottages belonging to the Trustees of Yale's Charity. Brook Street was much narrower in those days, and a road went along the south side of Lloran House to the Pistyll, as well as the main street facing the Girls' School. In 1865 the site was purchased by the late Mr. Edward Williams, solicitor, who then lived at Lloran House, when the road running south of his house and a portion of the site of the cottages were taken to enlarge the back of his premises and the remainder applied to the widening of Brook Street

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and the approach therefrom to the Pistyll. The last occupiers here were Mary Redrobe, Mrs. Piozzi, and Elizabeth Powell. One of these kept a common lodging-house, and upon a certain morning a man called to engage rooms for himself and "Jenny," whom the landlady presumed to be a wife or daughter, but at dusk there was much commotion when the man walked into the house accompanied by "Jenny," a performing bear.

Lloran House. The greater portion of this house is in Upper Brook Street, but the front entrance being in Welsh Walls, it is numbered among the houses of that street. This is an important structure, and, (quoting H.W.G.) appears to have been so named because it was the town residence of the Davies' family and owners of the Lloran Ganol Estate in the parish of Llansilin. There is a record in the registers of the latter parish of the marriage, in 1703, of John Davies, who formerly occupied Glascoed, Llansilin, but is described as of the parish of Oswestry. Near the west door of St. Oswald's church there is a stone slab recording the death in 1745 of Emma, daughter of John Davies,of Lloranganol, and who, probably, died at Lloran House. Thomas Davies, the grandson of the above-named John Davies, and born in 1744, married in 1778, Elizabeth, daughter of Richard Maurice of Brynygwaliau, Llangedwyn. He is described as of Brook Street (Lloran House), Oswestry, and Lloran ganol in the parish of Llansilin. He died at Lloran House in 1810. His widow continued to live there until her death in 1820. Some time afterwards the property was purchased by Mr. Edward Williams, of the firm of Messrs. Longueville & Williams, solicitors. Mr. Williams was living here in 1841 and died in 1869. Some of his children remained in residence until about 1872, when Mr. W. Fletcher Rogers (mayor 1884), became the occupier until the erection of his new residence, High Lea. Mr. Rogers' successor was Mr. George Cobley, one of the masters at the Grammar School. Mr. Cobley was a native of Smeeton, Westerley, and when

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he died in 1898, had just completed thirty-two years service at the school.

No. 15, Welsh Walls (opposite Lloran House). This house was erected in 1808, and, in part, on the north side, upon the site of a " decayed house and stable " belonging to the poor of the town. In a Report of 1875 it is stated the owner held under a lease granted 11th October, 1808, by Mr. T. Longueville Jones and others, the Mayor and Overseers of the poor of the town of Oswestry (for Yales' Charity) to Mr. Thomas Davies, for ninety nine years, the land being described as " a parcel of ground near the churchyard at the gable end of a messuage lately purchased by the said Thomas Davies, and at the north side of the said house, containing 1285 square yards," and that the churchwardens were being paid one pound a year ground rent by Mr. Robert Owen Tudor, the then proprietor of the new dwelling. Thomas Davies died without issue and the estate reverted to the Tudor family of Welshpool. The occupier in 1854 was Mr. George Broughall, who was succeeded by Mr. Henry Crutchloe, father of Mr. John Crutchloe, gunsmith, Bailey Street, and who died in 1883

No. 3 Upper Brook Street (Messrs. Longueville & Co.). Upon this ground, in 1845, were two old and very dilapidated cottages, fronting the Welsh Walls and in the occupation of Margaret Phillips and Stephen Russell. They must have been demolished soon afterwards, and the present offices erected on the site, for Messrs. Longueville & Williams, solicitors, who came in from No. 12, Salop Road. Upon Mr. John Jones, of Bellan House, being taken into the firm, it was known during the life of Mr. Edward Williams, sen., as Messrs. Longueville, Williams & Jones, and after his death, when Mr. Edward Williams junr. (afterwards Mr. Edward Williams-Vaughan), of Ebnall Lodge and Broom Hall, was admitted, as Messrs. Longueville, Jones & Williams. The building has been several times enlarged and the principal entrance is from Brook Street.

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On the space between the last-mentioned premises and approach to Griddle gate were a couple of old-fashioned straw thatched cottages (also part of Yales' Charity) with palaisaded fronts, in which lived Mary Cadwaladr, who kept a toffey shop, and William Jones, known as " Billy Swing,"a monumental mason, one of the bell ringers and organ blower at St. Oswald's Church. " Billy " was fond of beer and it was his custom, when acting as blower and during the reading of a long lesson, to slip out of the church through a side door and return with a covered jug, which he would place upon a ledge behind the organ, for imbibing during the sixty minutes (or longer) sermon of that period. Mr. T. Owen, in his *Reminiscences*, states that the old man devoted a good deal of his time " between the acts " in chalking the numbers of the hymns on pieces of black glazed card board, for suspending on the gallery sides, in view of the congregation. The old houses were demolished and the ground offered for sale in 1862. Afterwards a large greenhouse was erected on the site, in which there was a fine exhibition of plants belonging to Mr. Buller Swete, who then lived nearly opposite.

Adjoining the last-mentioned property, and west of the church, stands a picturesque half-timbered block, which is believed to be the very building where, in 1407, the Free Grammar School was founded by David Holbache and Gwenhwyfar his wife. There is no date upon the building, but it has been repaired and added to from time to time, the earliest record being an order taken the 28th April 19 Elizabeth (1577) for " the disposition of all ye woods growing and to be growing in or upon the schoole lands to be from tyme to tyme ymployed to the use of the repar'con of the schoole house of the said towne." (*Corporation Paper.*) The old schoolroom is now a cottage residence, and still contains on the east wall, a vertical beam, on which bye-gone scholars carved their names. The topmost letters are " T.S.," below which are " John H.," perhaps John Hanmer of Pentrepant (born 1655, buried 1694), " R. Lloyd 1766," " Francis

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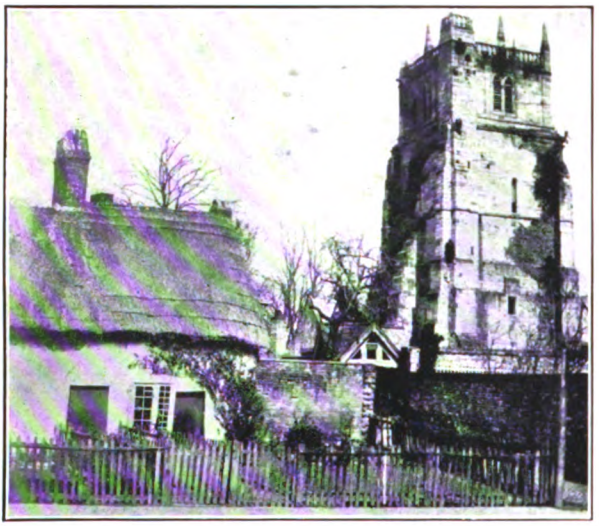

51 **GRIDDLE COTTAGES—Demolished.** Page 50.

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1660," "O. N. Moody," perhaps John Moody of Oswestry Parish, who was living in 1735, and lastly "Robert Owen of Landyn 1671." This was Sir Robert Owen of Landyn in Llangollen parish, and of Brogyntyn, born 1658, succeeded his father in the Porkington and Clemenly estates in his twenty-first year, married Margaret, eldest daughter and heir of Owen Wynne, of Glyn, co. Merioneth, mayor of Oswestry 1686, and 1696 and M.P. for Merioneth in the Parliament held at Oxford 1681—1685. He received the honour of knighthood about 1680, died in 1698 at the age of forty, and was buried at Selattyn. (Gwenrhian Gwynedd, in *Shrop. Arch. Trans. Vol. IV.*)

David Holbache is believed to have been born at Duddleston (Manor of Tryan), near Ellesmere, and in the *Souvenir* before mentioned it is stated that he was a "Crown Pleader and Attorney" for the whole of Wales, War Treasurer to Henry IV, and Steward of the Lordship of Oswestry. It is on record that he was one of the Commissioners sent by the new Earl of Arundel to receive the fealty of the lord's Ruyton tenants in 1376. He was member of Parliament for the county of Salop in 1406 and afterwards in 1413, and, later, for the borough of Shrewsbury, and one of the witnesses of Thomas, earl of Arundel's charter to Oswestry in 1407. He married Gwenhwyfar daughter of Jeuan ap John ap Eignon of Sweeney.

This is the oldest Grammar School in Shropshire (Shrewsbury School was founded about 150 years later) and the fourteenth in order of date in England, the first being Winchester, only twenty years earlier. (*Shrop. Arch. Trans. III.* 293.)

Mr. Askew Roberts in his *Contributions* says :—

"We have no document that will give us an idea of what Mr. Holbache's notions of a "Free School" were, but amongst our Corporation papers and school records have been handed down documents recording events that have caused important changes in the government of the institution, and which have not always redounded to the honour of the parties concerned."

Copies of ancient documents are also preserved in the Free Library at Shrewsbury. Under one of these Gwenhwyfar, David Holbache's widow, granted to the

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first Trustees, nineteen in number, (comprising the chief gentry of Shropshire and the Marches) and their heirs and assigns for ever " all her property " (which had been conveyed to her late husband by her late father) " in the Lordship or Manor of Du-parts belonging to the hundred of Oswestry " in consideration that they observed, in every respect the intention of her late husband, " that the rents issues and annual profits derived therefrom should be applied from year to year in the maintenance of one Schoolmaster in the Town of Oswestry." Some of the property was situate in the township of Sweeney, and two meadows there are still named " Cae Holbage " and " Cae Holbage Vawr " respectively.

A document dated 28th April 1577 relates to the appointment of a schoolmaster by the Bailiffs and Aldermen and Vicar of the Parish as the Governors of the School at that period. In addition to the rents, &c., of the lands it was ordered " that the said Schoole Mr shall at his pleasure dureyng the tyme of his func'ion have, take and carry away soe much of the underwoods Scrubb Okes and Croppes of Okes, growing upon the said Schoole land as shall suffice at all tymes for fewell for his owne fier or chamber."

The entrance fee payable to the Master in respect of every " schooler " born outside the town and parish of Oswestry was one shilling, and every scholar born within the area, four pence, the admission in each case to be at the discretion of the Master, and where certain persons at their pleasure retained boys " to imploy them to other businesses, by a long space, and then to turn them to schoole again, by reason of which their discontinuance from their learning they have not p'fited therein to the no small discredit of the Schoole " (sickness excepted) a new entrance fee of eightpence was payable. The " said Mr shall have and receive of ev'y of his scholars wch shall ent'r his accidence quarterly 4d. and of every other 2d.," and " where a certain duty due to former Schoole Mrs in the said schoole commonly called Cockefight money was but a peny of ev'y a Schoolar he the said new Schoole Mr

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henceforth to have and receive of ev'y of his Schoolars 2d yerely for the said Cockefight money," and further, permission was granted to the Master " to have and receave all such other money or rewardes of the Parents or Friends of his Schoolars wch their said Parents or Friends will willingly give him for the education of their children or friends undemanded and uncompellede." For all which stipend salary and sums of money " the School Mr dureing the tyme of his function shall on all school dayes of the year winter and summer resort to his said charge and schoole at 6 or between 6 & 7 of the clock in the morning and shall continue there till 5 of ye clock in the Evening, the tyme of Meales or sickness or otherwise his necessary business excepted."

An Usher taught " ye younger sort to read the A.B.C. the English primer and the grammar commonly called the King's Grammar," while the Master instructed the higher standards in the Greek ' tounge,' translation of English into Latin and writing, " always remembering that to write fair is for the Benefit of the greater number of his said schoolars," and as soon as any of the pupils were ripe for the University he " shall privately teach (them) the principles of Logicke."

Three years later the school fees were revised, so that two shillings per annum covered all expenses including entrance money.

On the 17th September 1634 a Commission of Enquiry, termed " An Inquisition under a Commission of Charitable Uses," was taken in the Town, when it was found that the Bailiffs had abused their trust in making leases at an undervalue and for secret rewards to themselves, (the wives were the medium, Dorothy Cooper in one instance, accepting twenty nobles to the use of her husband, a Bailiff) and in committing great waste upon the timber trees growing on the estate. In the following year it was decreed that the Bailiffs had acted without just authority and having abused their trust, they should be for ever discharged and excluded from any trust or

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intermeddling with the School and lands, or from anything which should concern the same, otherwise than was thereafter limited, and " that the nomination and placing of the Schoolmaster should be left to the Bishop and Ordinary of the said St. Asaph Diocess for the time being, according to law." (Mr. Askew Roberts' *Contributions*.)

It was not until the eighteenth century that any real progress was made in the carrying on of the establishment. In 1772 the Rev. Charles Anson Tisdale came here from the Wrexham Grammar School (" which under his management was of much repute ") bringing with him most of his boarders. With such an influx of scholars, the ancient building became " insufficient and inconvenient," and, as before stated, a new edifice was erected upon Cae'r Groes, in 1776.

The old school building was afterwards purchased by Mr. John Price (grandfather of the late Misses Price, of the Cross Vaults) joiner and cabinet maker, who died early in 1781.

In the Reports of the Town Charities, issued between 1815 and 1838, it is stated that in 1781, the surplus charity of £5 4s. 0d. for bread to the Poor of Oswestry given under the Will, dated 1616, of Sir John Swinnerton, merchant tailor, lord mayor of London 1612 and son of Thomas Swinnerton of Oswestry, was realised, to enable the town to purchase and repair certain premises adjoining the churchyard, for the purpose of a workhouse. A vestry meeting was held on 9th September, 1781, when it was " ordered that Thomas Morris and John Edwards, churchwardens of the said Town shall contract for and purchase for the sum of £126, with the money belonging to the parishioners of the said town commonly called the Poors' money, the old school house adjoining the churchyard heretofore purchased by John Price, Joiner, deceased, and by him converted into two dwellings, and also the other houses . . . . . in order that such messuages or dwelling houses and other the premises aforesaid may be converted into a

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workhouse for the reception of the poor parishioners of the said town for the time being, or for such other purposes as the churchwardens and overseers of the poor for the time being shall think proper, and that the conveyance of such premises be made to Sir Watkin Williams Wynn Baronett, Edward Brown and Francis Chambers Esquires and the heirs of the said Sir W. W. Wynn, for the purposes aforesaid."

The purchase was duly made and about twelve months later there is an entry as to the conduct of such workhouse. It reads—" Nov. 3rd, 1782. At a public Vestry this day held in the vestry room in the Parish Church of Oswestry, it was agreed and ordered, that the sum of one shilling and eight pence instead of one shilling and six pence heretofore allowed William Winstanley per week, per head, for each person now in the workhouse of this parish, be allowed him until the inhabitants of this parish come to some further determination for the support of the poor in the said workhouse." On Dec. 18th, 1786, Mr. Fuller Mercer Cockerill, Bailey Street, " was appointed surgeon and apothecary for the town and liberties at the yearly salary of Ten pounds. He to attend the out and indoor, as also such other inhabitants as shall be recommended to his care by the Mayor or Coroner for the time being. Mr. Cockerill to supply the patients with proper physic and surgical applications."

At a town vestry meeting held on 14th November 1790, " It was agreed that application be made to the adjoining parishes to unite with the Town and parish of Oswestry, in a general workhouse, to be erected under the powers of an Act of Parliament passed in the twenty-second year of His present Majesty George III."

The " adjoining parishes " acquiesed and were duly incorporated under a special Act (31 Geo. III), entitled " An Act for the better Relief and Employment of the Poor belonging to the Town of Oswestry, and to certain Parishes within the Hundred of Oswestry, in the County of Salop, and to such part of the parish of Llanymynech as lies within the said

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Hundred, and to the Parish of Chirk in the County of Denbigh, and to the parish of Llansilin in the County of Salop and Denbigh."

In 1791, five of the directors "Samuel Harwood doctor of physic, Thomas Davies, esquire (of Lloran House), Joseph Venables clerk (Castle House), Thomas Williams gentleman, and John Gibbons esquire" (The Poplars) entered into a contract with Mrs. Frances Withers of Oswestry, widow, for the purchase, at £720, of some land and dwellings (about seven acres in extent) at Morda, whereon the present House of Industry was erected at a cost of £12,000, and opened on 28th April 1792.

A writer, speaking of this structure soon after its erection, observes, that "it is a ridiculously-splendid brick-building, intended not for a purpose which its exterior seems to prompt, but for the abode of the indigent and wretched. It is a strange perversion of common sense, made by ostentation and folly, when elegance and show become the concealment of poverty and distress. Convenience, humility and obscurity, should rather distinguish the dwelling of the unfortunate, whether their circumstances be viewed from their own crimes or from the crimes of others." There was also considerable opposition to the upkeep of this new establishment, that many of the rate-payers desired to revert to the old system of dealing with the poor, and the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of 19th November, 1819, contained the following notice:—

"We the undersigned, magistrates of the County of Salop, acting for the Hundred of Oswestry do hereby call a Meeting of all persons who pay Poors Rates within the said Hundred, to take into consideration the propriety of petitioning Parliament for an Act to effect the abolition of the Oswestry House of Industry, The meeting to be held in the Town Hall, Oswestry, on Wednesday, the 1st day of December, 1819.

Wm. Lloyd,
Geo. Lloyd,
T. N. Parker."

In consequence of the *hour* of meeting being omitted from the foregoing, several persons arrived too late to vote upon the resolution. The parishes

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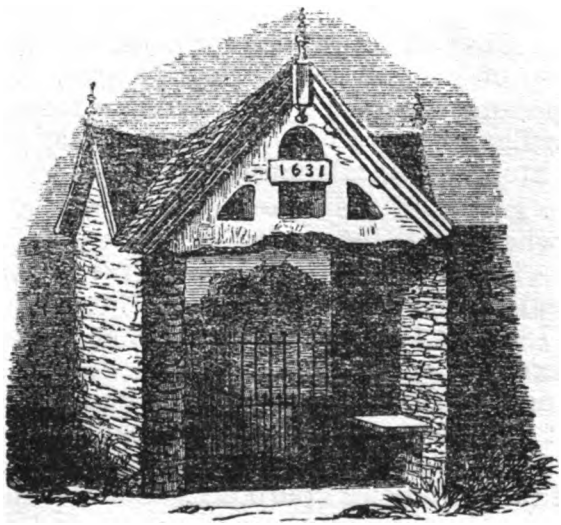
of Oswestry and Whittington decided, in vestry, in favour of continuing the establishment in preference to the common operation of the Poor Laws, if conducted with the strictest economy. Beyond this no further steps appear to have been taken in the matter.

At a Public Inquiry into the Charities of the town, held some years afterwards, it was stated that these old premises were sold in 1808 for £280, by the Directors of the Incorporation, and that the proceeds were not added to the funds of the House of Industry, but were applied in obtaining an Act of Parliament for Lighting and Paving the town of Oswestry. From that statement it appears that the inhabitants of the town have applied to their own use a sum of £126 (part of Swinnerton's Charity), applicable to Charitable uses, without making to the poor any compensation in lieu thereof.

After the sale a portion was rented for education purposes, for in the Whittington register there is an entry—"1810. Oswestry Charity School for boys removed from a small room in the churchyard to the town hall. Mr. Lancaster's plan adopted."



THE GRIDDLE GATE.

The principal approach to these premises is through the Griddle Gate, which in Cathrall's *History*

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of Oswestry is called the Lych Gate or Corpse Gate, and it is stated therein that on occasions of burial from the south side of the town, the coffin of a deceased party was placed temporarily on a bier within the porch to await the clergyman, and from thence conveyed to the church. As such a covering is only to be found over main entrances to churchyards, and the side approach from Upper Brook Street being so narrow and inconvenient, this structure is hardly likely to have been used for such a purpose. It appears to stand upon private property and is believed to have been erected as an ornament over the principal entrance to the old Free School, with the date "1631" affixed to the beam on the south side. It is always called the Griddle Gate, a term which probably comes from the French word "grille." The inside doors, which have long since vanished, may have had a "grille," such as we see in monastic buildings. (Gwenrhian Gwynedd in *Shrop. Arch. Trans.*)

Next comes the Coach and Dogs premises. Just about the position of the present yard entrance (the former entrance was some yards nearer Church Street) there was a loft, approached by steps resting upon the side path and which for many years was the workshop of Mr. Edward Eyeley, painter. It afterwards became occupied by Mr. William Rous, artist, Thomas Luvaté, carver and gilder and lastly by Mr. Robert Stephenson, cabinet maker.

No. 1 (part of the same premises) was a private house, where, in 1845, resided the owner, Mr. Samuel Boffey. It was afterwards converted into a house and shop, and in 1862 occupied by Mrs. Margaret Kilner, and in 1869 by Miss Morgan, provision dealer. She was succeeded by Mr. William Garbutt, local agent for German yeast, and second-hand bookseller. Mr. Garbutt was an accomplished tonic-solfaist, and his children were the first in this district to apply that method to instrumental purposes. Subsequent occupiers were Messrs. Walter Phillips, R. & E. Jones, and William Williams, all grocers.

Just outside here stood a large horse-block, a

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convenience at every public house before the introduction of spring traps or gigs, for farmers wives to mount and dismount the pillion or leather cushion that was strapped behind the saddle. Occupiers of small farms in the isolated parts of Wales, where roads were unfit for vehicles, usually kept a light cart horse long and strong in the back and legs, which the farmer mounted, while his wife, in the "Peggy behind Margaret" style, rode on the pillion attached to the saddle, her legs hung over the horse's flank, and up and down hill and in the difficult parts of the road, she had to "hold on" as well as she could. In "*Childish Reminiscences of Oswestry*," by Miss Alicia Donne, daughter of the late Rev. Stephen Donne of the Grammar School, is the following word-picture of the country folk coming along the Penylan road upon a market day :—

"On fair days the farmers came
down from the hills, on
horses both big and strong.

Their wives sat behind, a
stocking in hand, to knit
as they jogged along."

When the farmer had not his wife up behind, he generally took a bag of corn under him for sale, wherewithal to purchase the house and other necessaries which he would carry home in his coat pockets or in a wallet across his back.

The last couple who travelled to Oswestry market in this way were from the neighbourhood of Llanrhaiadr. It was early in the sixties and they usually passed through Nantmawr and Trefonen.

Coach and Dogs Inn. Tradition has it that this house was built about 1660 by Edward Lloyd (born 1635 and son of Colonel Edward Lloyd of Llanforda, leader of the Royalist forces in the town in 1643) the last of the Lloyds of Llanforda, who kept a light carriage of four wheels, and, as was the custom in those days, drawn by dogs. He frequently rode to Oswestry in this carriage, and the site being his property, it is believed he erected the inn of brick and

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timber and named it the Coach and Dogs. It was a much different kind of a house then, having two projecting gables facing Church Street, and a large entrance porch in the middle, and above the porch stretching from gable to gable, a long window (which still remains) and a row of benches outside, between the gables, for fine weather drinking. With the exception of the long window just mentioned, the premises have been modernized.

Some years ago the letters T.L. and date 1631 were painted on the south gable, but being only the guess of a local painter they have been obliterated.

In after years Edward Lloyd petitioned, first of all Parliament, and afterwards King Charles II, for relief, and in the Lloyd MSS (quoted in the *Story of Oswestry Castle*) he sets forth to the Parliament " That he was formerly seized in fee of certain houses in Oswestrie burnt down by Colonell Mitton in safety to the garrison to the damage of 2000 li," so that now " there remains only waste ground," and he prays this may be taken into account when his fine should be imposed. He wrote " The true narrative of Captain Edward Lloyd's actions and sufferings, how he gave his ma'tie all his plate and raized a Troope of Dragoons and armed them at his own charge, advancing likewise a month's pay to every soldier out of his own purse," how he sustained " frequent imprisonment, at least a dozen times, nor did their malice only rest on him, but extended itselfe to all his relations, his wife was likewise questioned for her life and hardlie escaped, a friend of hers was hanged and a maid servant whipt to death for their fidelitie to his ma'tie in endeavouring to restore the garrison of Oswaldstre to their prestine loyalty " and he estimated his losses at £8,080 14s. 6d.

The Llanforda estate was disposed of by him in 1657 to his kinsman Sir William Williams of Glasgoed. There is nothing in the MSS to show if he was married, but there is a record in the Parish Register which suggests that he had a wife :—" 25th July 1677 Catherine wife of Edward Lloyd late of Llanforda now

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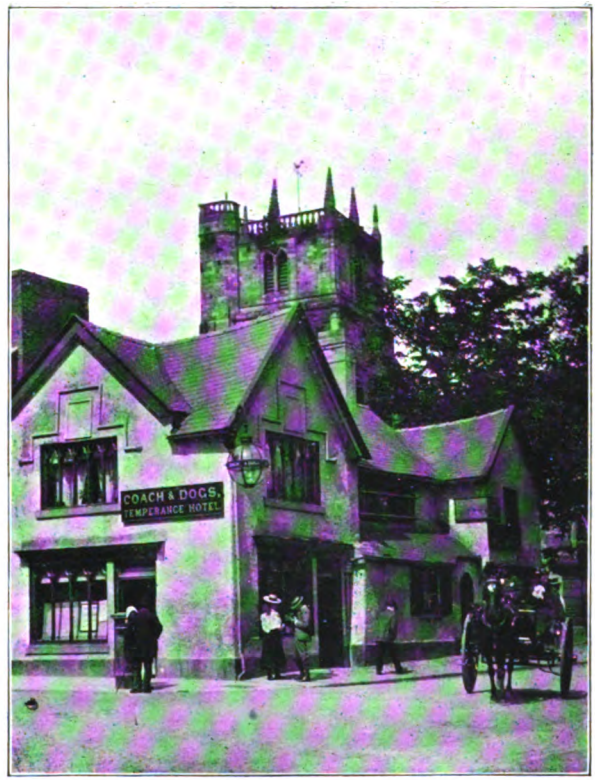

60 **The COACH and DOGS INN.** Page 59.

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in Rhandir, buried." This opens to the suggestion that after he had parted with his estate he went to live in the neighbouring township, and that his wife died there in 1677. He died in 1681, the record of his burial reading as follows :—" July 30th 1681, Edward Lloyd of Llanforda Esq., died 26th and was buried the 30th by night." He was the father of Edward Lloyd the celebrated antiquary and historian. (H. W. G. in *Bye Gones.*)

The earliest mention of the house in the Parish Register is in 1680 when it was kept by Richard Williams. Other occupiers named are Messrs. John Parry (1706), Richard Parry (1715), Richard Blower (1727), Evan Evans (1743) Stephen Parry (1765), Evan Price (1780), Edward Gittins (1783), Richard Higginson (1796), John Wriggleworth (1810), Richard Boffey (1828), Mrs. Mary Thomas (1852), who afterwards went to the Bell Inn, Richard Kilner (1856), Mrs. Kilner (1862), Joseph Wright (1863—1876) and Mrs. Wright (1882), after when it was purchased by the Hon. Mrs. Stapleton Cotton (Mrs. Wynne Corrie) for philanthropic purposes.

The pillar letter box at corner of street was fixed in 1859.

In the beginning of the last century, when the water from Oswald's Well flowed openly along Brook Street and across Church Street, there was an arched bridge near where stands the pillar box, for the use of pedestrians in crossing the stream. At the Quarter Sessions held 5th April 1800, an order was made that " the Bridge " crossing the top of Church Street should be repaired.

CHURCH STREET.

Church Street—West side. The iron gates upon the principal entrance to St. Oswald's Church were put up in 1815, the contractor being Mr. Elias Phillips, Pentrepoeth, and the cost thereof, including lock, was only £8. (Church Accounts.)

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The street from this point down to the entrance to Broad Walk was very much narrower years ago. A low stone wall, upon which the loafers of the period sat, separated the churchyard from the street. Behind this was a walk that went around the churchyard, and which, as recent as 1821, was used by a professional pedestrian for the performance of a walk of fifty miles in seven and a half hours, and which a vast crowd witnessed. The wall afforded but little protection upon fair days, for the following entries appear in the Church books :—

" 1599 Payt to foure men a dayes wages in keepinge the market upon the fayre daye out of the church yearde ij."

" 1602 Itm. pd. to a felowe for keepinge the church yarde upon ye faire day from seling and buinge of skignes and sheep ij."

In 1826 it was decided to make an encroachment upon the churchyard so as to widen Church Street, the stone wall and railings, now existing, being erected soon afterwards, the town (so it was understood) contributing £50 towards the cost.

St. Oswald's Church. Oswald, in whose name the parish church is dedicated, lived in the seventh century. He was the son of Ethelfrith, King of Northumbria (who slaughtered the monks of Bangor-isycoed) and educated and brought up in the Christian faith, according to the Church of Rome, by the monks of Iona. So great was his zeal for the religion he had embraced, that immediately he got into power, he gathered his forces and marched forth to demolish paganism and establish christianity, with the sword. He however fell, as before stated, upon Cae Nef, adjoining Maesylan, after which, " for the opinion conceived of his holiness, hee was canonized a sainte " (*Davies*), and (as says a writer in *Oswald's Well*) his acts of supererogation duly placed to reserve account.

In Davies' *MS.* it is stated that

" he died in the eight and thirty yeare of his age, in the yeere of our Lord God 642, upon the third day of August, upon w'ch daye his festivity was wonte to be celebrated yeerley in the towne and parish of Oswestry, called by us the Wakes or our Wakes day . . . . . The Christians . . . . . built a monas-

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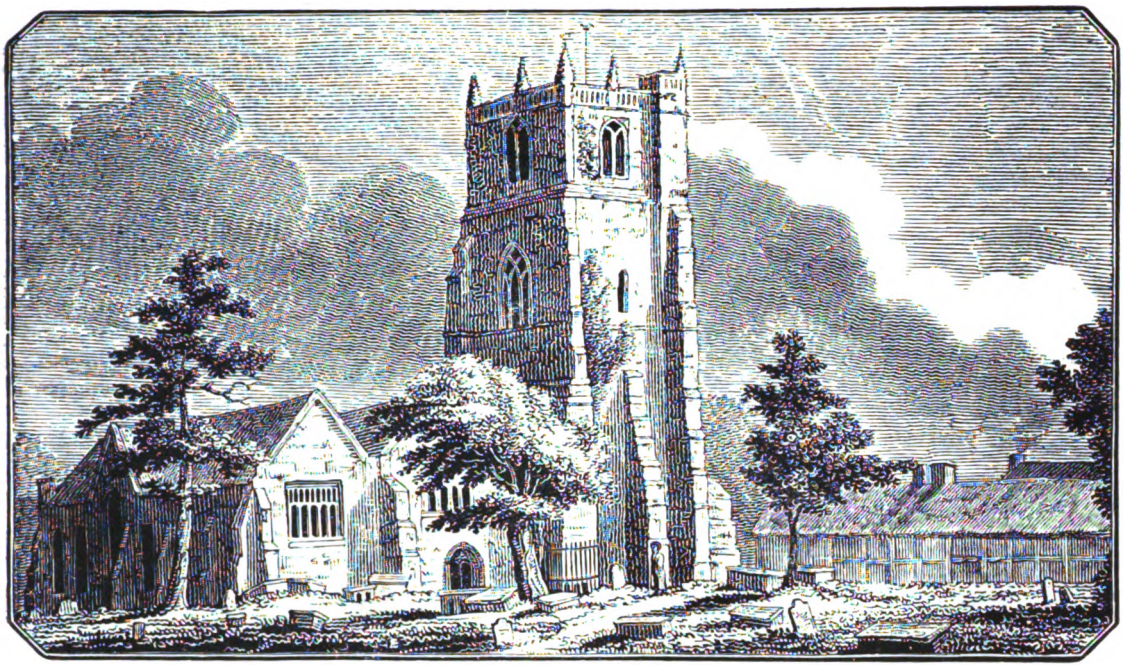

62 ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH, 1812.

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terie here w'ch is now the large and faire church and dedicated it to St. Oswald, and called in Welsh y Fynachlog Wen (White Abbey), and the Normans afterwards accordinglie blanche monasterie, soe te'rmed of the color wherewith the outside was lymed or plastered all over whereby it app'ed woite afarr off to the beholders, so that the towne itself in process of tyme was often called (by reason of the monasterie built in the south east end thereof) Albu monasterie and by the Normans Album Monasterium and Blanc Minster,"

That the building so erected by the Christian monks was upon the site of the present structure, is based or founded upon tradition only, for the earliest reliable mention of the existence of St. Oswald's is not until the beginning of the eleventh century (nearly four centuries later) when Warren, Lieutenant of Earl Roger of Montgomery, granted to the Monks of St. Peter's at Shrewsbury " the church of St. Oswald, with the tythes of the same Vill." (*Eyton.*) In 1223 a vicarage was ordained and provision made that the services should be performed by the Vicar and two chaplains or curates. Bishop Reyner instituted one Philip Fitz Leofth to the vicarage, which was thus taxed :—" The vicar shall have all oblations, obversions, and small tithes and three messuages in Oswestry. He shall cause the services of the said church to be becomingly performed by two chaplains, and shall be liable to discharge the bishop's synodals and all other burdens, and shall be content with the portion thus assigned. All garbs (i.e. corn and hay tithes) lands and rents are reserved to the abbey." (*Eyton.*)

In the *Taxatio* of Pope Nicholas the Fourth, A.D. 1291 (preserved in the Exchequer), Oswestry is thus recorded :—

" St. Asaph. Spiritualities.

Deanery of Marchia

Church of Oswalstra

	£	s.	d.
Rectory - - -	20	13	4
Vicarage - - -	8	13	4 "

The Tithe continued to belong to the Monastery until, as one of the great religious houses, Shrewsbury

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was by force of the statute 31 Henry VIII dissolved, when it came into the hands of the crown, with whom it remained until the time of James I. This monarch, in 1611, granted it to Francis Morris and Francis Phillips, under a reserved yearly fee farm rent of £56. From them it passed, probably by purchase, to William Earl of Craven (son of Sir William Craven, Lord Mayor of London, about 1611), who in 1674 settled the manor or lordship and the rectory upon his nephew William, Earl and afterwards first Marquis of Powis, son of his only sister Elizabeth, who had married Percy Herbert, Earl of Powis, from whom it descended to the Earl of Powis, who died in 1801, the trustees of whose Will sold the rectorial or great tithes in 1810 to different purchasers, with the exception of those of the town and liberties, commuted at £211 13s. 6d. which the third earl in 1872 gave and annexed to the vicarage, and those of the township of Middleton, commuted at £110 4s. 6d. which at the same time he gave and annexed to the vicarage of Trinity Church, in augmentation of their respective incomes. (Thomas's *History of the Diocese.*)

During the troublesome part of Henry III reign, about the middle of the thirteenth century, the town was burnt and plundered, and it is believed the church was partly demolished, for only the north-west corner of the tower, and a piece of the near wall adjoining, remain of the masonry of that period. The window upon the north side of the tower is undoubtedly the oldest, and would be about the thirteenth century, and it is noteworthy that the loop holes in the staircase leading to the top are of the same character and detail as those found in Carnarvon castle, the building of which was commenced in 1283. About 1400, when Owen Glyndwr attacked and burned the town probably the church again suffered and after the establishment of peace, was again restored, for a portion of the fabric is of the fifteenth century work. (W. H. Spaull in *Bye Gones.*)

Leland, who visited the town in 1540, described " the churche of S. Oswald as a very fair ledded

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chirche with a great toured steeple."

There appears to have been two chapels dedicated originally to St. Mary and St. Catherine respectively. As to the first of these—During the time the church was in the possession of Shrewsbury Abbey, it appears to have been enlarged by the addition of a chapel which it is believed occupied the space between the tower and the transept upon the south of the south aisle, and was dedicated, as was the usual custom of the Cistercians, in the name of the Virgin. (Thomas' *History of the Diocese.*) Upon a canopied monument, which exhibits a male and female kneeling, now on the north side of the church, is the following inscription :— " In memory of Hugh Yale, alderman of this town, and Dorothy his wife, daughter of Roger Royden Esq of Burton in the County of Denbigh, whose bodies are interred within ye chancel of this church, *commonly called St. Mary's before the demolition in the late wars, Anno* 1616. They gave to the poor of this town the yearly interest and benefice of One Hundred Pounds to continue for ever, besides other good acts of charity." Beneath is another inscription :—" Underneath are interred the remains of Margaret the wife of David Yale Esq., daughter and heiress of Edward Morris of Cae Mor, gent. She departed this life the 20th day of December 1754 aged 66. Also lye the remains of David Yale Esq., who dyd January 29th 1763, aged 81. This was erected by her son John Yale of Plas yn Yale, clerk."

In his will dated 1540, " Richard Stayne, the elder of Oswester marcer," directed that he should be buried in Oswestry Church " in the Chapell of our blessed Lady." (*By Gones,*) and in a deed conveying a couple of seats to Mrs. Frances Withers in 1780, such seats are described as being " *in Saint Mary's Aisle.*"

As to the second chapel—The will of Robert ap Howell of the town of Oswestry, draper, (who it is believed built Park Hall), directed that " My bodie to be buryed in Our Lady Chappell w'tin the Parische Churche of Oswestree. Item my Will is that my

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executor dos bestowe after my decease a lode of Leade towards the coveringe of the Roffe of thaltaries of the Roode and *St. Katherine* within the Parysche Church of Oswestrie aforesaide and the same to be delyveride at the tyme the aforesaide Roffe be reddye builde to receve coveringe."

There was also a high altar, distinguished from other altars in the church, for according to the Will of Meryge ap William of Oswestry, dated 5th March 1539, first commending his soul to God he then desires his " bodie to be buried in the Parische Churche of Oswester, and leave to the hight altar for my forgotten tythes and oblacions XIId."

Gutto or Griffith a native of Glyn Ceiriog, domestic bard to the Abbot of Vale Crucis, who died in 1503, wrote the following panegyric, for which it appears he was made a burgess of the town :—

" *Oswestry* is the liberal, the best endowed of cities ;
The beloved of heaven that draws me to it.
Oswestry the strong fort of conquerors : the *London* of *Powis*,
Where the houses are well stored with wine and the land is rich.
Its school is celebrated, and its city for preachers and men of science.
God is present in its beautiful temple—
A church adorned with rich chalices,
And with bells and a rich-toned organ.
No better choir is there from it to *Canterbury* :
None in which there is correcter singing,
Or the habiliments more suitable,
To *White Minster* I know no convent superior.
The handsomest and best drest women are those of *Oswestry*.
It resembles *Cheapside* in merchandise,
And its people are honest and unanimous.
God's grace be with the city, and those that dwell therein,
May God be its guardian and kind preserver."

At the time of the Civil War in the seventeenth century the town was garrisoned by the Royalist followers (Caveliers) of Charles I under the command of Colonel Edward Lloyd (son of John Lloyd of Llanforda who built Llwyd's mansion), who " pulled downe many houses that were without the wall, lest they might shelter the enemy. The church also being without the wall, was pulled downe and the toppe of the steeple into that loft where the bell frame stood, it

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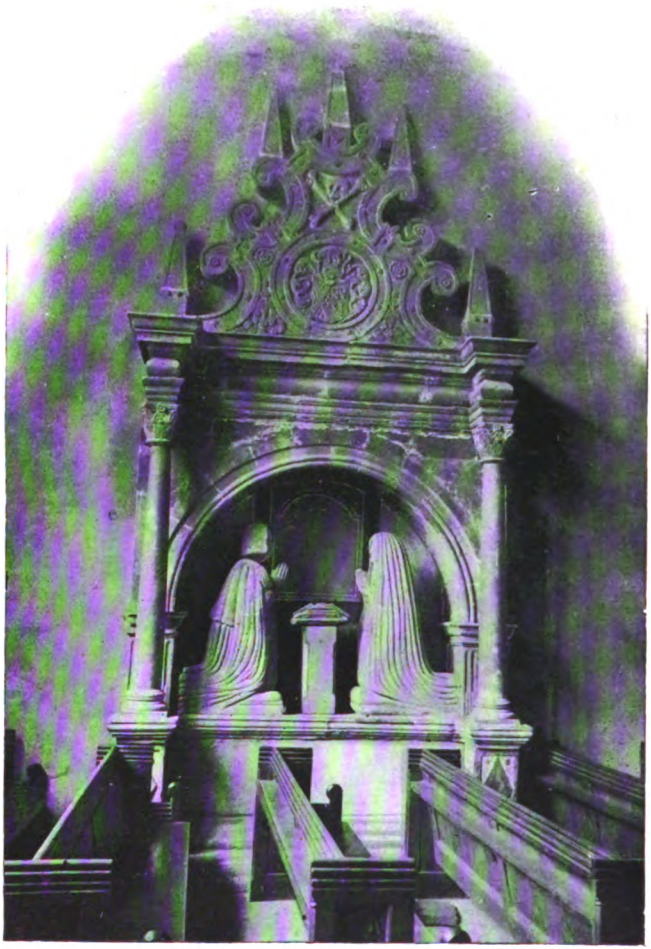

67 **Yale's Monument in St. Oswald's Church.** Page 65

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being the strongest hold about the towne. The bells were also brought unto the towne and the Organs were embezzled." (*Gough.*) The leader of the Parliamentarians (Roundheads) was General Thomas Mytton (born at Halston in 1608 and in 1629 married a daughter of Sir ——Napier Bart. of Luton. His habergeon is preserved in Halston Chapel) and upon Saturday the 22nd June 1644 the siege opened with an attack upon the Church which the Royalist party had manned in order to harass the invaders. At the end of half a hour's " sore fight " the enemy, led by Lord Denbigh, entered the building when the Royalists took refuge in the tower, but the invaders " fetchet them down with a powder." The party then proceeded towards New Gate, and an account of their feats is given under another heading (The Castle).

On Saturday, June 29th the Church was retaken by the King's Forces, but they only held it until the Tuesday following.

As to the extent of the damage done upon this occasion to the Church and tower, there is no reliable information obtainable, except that soon afterwards, upon application of the Inhabitants of the town, Briefs or Letters Patent were granted by Oliver, Lord Protector, authorising a collection " Towards the rebuilding of the Church of Oswestree which in the late wars was demolisht and layd even with the ground, the inhabitants being without a meeting place for the publique worship of God." (*Calendar of State Papers.*)

The following collections are recorded as having been made in this County :—

Shrawardine Register 1650 " There was collected in this parish the sum of 21/4 towards the rebuilding of the Church of Oswestree wh. in the late ware was demolisht and layd even with the ground."

Pontesbury Register. " August the tenth Anno Dom'i 1650 collected the Daye and yeare above written in the parish of Pontesbury towards the rebuilding of the Church of Oswestrie the full sume of One and fiftie shillings and five pence."

A further Brief was obtained in 1675 the sum then

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asked for being £1500 and the following collections are recorded : Worthen 1676. " The 4th day of Aprill for the rebuilding of the Church of Oswestree the sum of 9s. 3d."
Heddon Yorks. " Collected for and towards ye repair of ye Parish Church of Oswestrie in ye County of Salop August ye twentieth 1676 the summe of six shillings seven pence three farthings."

The works were in progress in 1677, for in the Warden's Account of that year appears the following entry :— " August 30. It was agreed at a vestry that a leon of 60 pounds be assessed by the Church wardens for the present yeare, for and towards finishing of ye church and steeple, and for getting in of ye money that are yett unpaide from ye briefe."

Some improvements appear to have been effected upon the tower in 1692, the names of the then wardens John Owen, Thomas Browne, William Jones and Edward Woolfe, being inscribed on the stone lintel above the outside entrance door, and in 1715 a opening which was called the " Town door " was made upon the north side and entered from the Broad Walk. (" Peter Povall (mayor 1724), Edward Haytley, John Lloyd, Richard Thomas Church-wardens.")

In Price's M.S. Annotations it is stated—" At the time of the Feast, and during the time of Divine Service, the masons threw a quantity of stones on the roof of the church, that so alarmed the congregation, supposing the tower to be falling, that they attempted to force themselves out of the church, by which several lost their hats, shawls, &c., but no further accident."

Price's *History* (1815) says " The interior (of the church) has undergone great improvement of late years," and Cathrall, writing in 1855, says " The Church was enlarged and beautified in 1807."

Five years later a new gallery was put up, across the nave, in a line with the other big galleries, for the reception of a " handsome organ." And when the organ came it was found that it would not go into the

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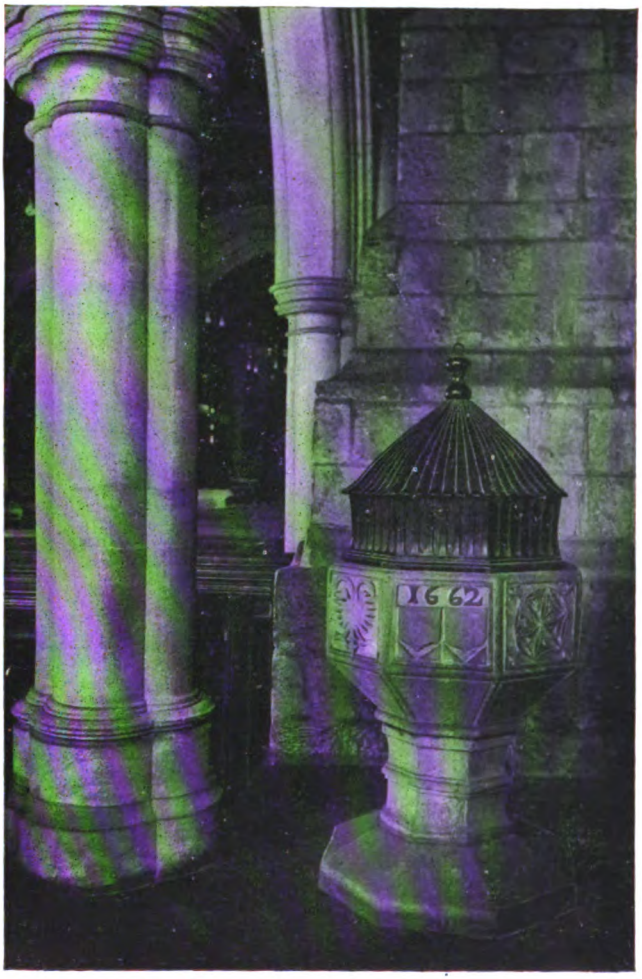

69 **Old Font(showing Arms of Lloyd, Llanforda) in St. Oswald's Church.** Page 73.

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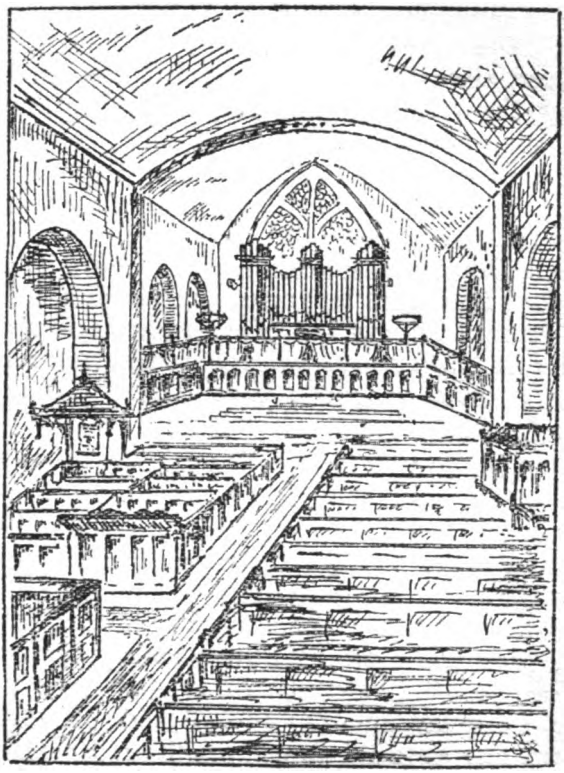
gallery, so another gallery was erected which crossed the nave, where it joined the chancel, and all but hid the Communion Table from a large number of the congregation. Thus the novel spectacle was exhibited



THE SINGING GALLERY, ST. OSWALD'S CHURCH, 1860.

of two galleries crossing the nave like bridges spanning a river. When the organ was opened there "was a grand musical festival. From a programme preserved the tickets of admission were a Guinea each and the performers came from London. The Messiah was given the first day and selections on the second. There was a full orchestra and a London conductor. All the fashionables of the district, "including The "Ladies of Llangollen," being present. We are not told what became of the old organ, or whether there was one, but there is a popular belief that a better organ than any

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once graced the church, but was "embezzled," ac-according to Gough (before the siege of Oswestry began), and in 1815 "graced one of the churches of London," that church being St. Mary Axe, not far from the Minories. (Mr. Askew Roberts' *Contributions.*)

Further alterations were carried out in 1830, comprising the rebuilding of the wall of the south chancel aisle, and inserting a compound-door-and-window in the east end. That door was put in as a "short cut" for the town folk (the door on south side was called the "country door"), and at the same time the "Town Door," made on the north side in 1715, was closed. "Margaret Redrobe, died March 6, 1830, aged 83, Buried March 11. Taken through the old burial door in Church and was the first corpse carried through the new door the east side the church." (Old M.S. Journal.)

In 1859 the vestry or surplice room was removed from the north chancel aisle to the tower, the east window, then brought to view, being in 1861 filled in with stained glass to the memory of "Edward F. Venables (formerly of Woodhill) killed in action at Azimghur during the Indian Mutiny in 1858." In the same year the Earl of Powis, as lay rector, removed the painted figures of Moses and Aaron with the Commandments and Creed which had blocked up the east window, renewed the tracery and filled it with stained glass. About the same time a heraldic window was erected on the south side of the chancel by the Rev. John Parker of Llanyblodwel to the memory of his father, Thomas Netherton Parker of Sweeney.

The ornamental part of the tower was rebuilt in the beginning of the last century and the roof thereof entirely renewed and the lead fresh cast, at a cost of about £211. The present chiming clock was presented to the town by Mr. Charles Whitley Owen, mayor 1873.

The following is a description of the interior of

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71 **Interior of St. Oswald's Church previous to the Restoration of 1872.** Page 71.

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the church in 1847, as given in Thomas' *History of the Diocese* :—

" The ground plan consisted of chancel and nave, with north and south aisles running the full length, and also a south chapel extending from the great south-western tower to the line of the old chancel. Along the whole of the west end, save the north aisle, ran a series of galleries, and until the removal of the organ, there had been another at the junction of the chancel and nave, where the rood loft had once stood and the singing gallery had succeeded. The roof throughout, except in the restored chancel, was concealed by a low round ceiling, and the arches, which were very unshapely, had texts inscribed upon them. The desk stood against the first pillar of the nave on the north side, and the pulpit in a corresponding position on the south. Part of the north chancel aisle was blocked up for the purposes of a vestry, and the east window of the chancel was filled up by painted boards, containing the Ten Commandments,"

The latter being flanked on either side by painted figures supposed to represent Moses and Aaron.

The whole of the body of the church was filled in with somewhat irregular shaped pews, all of which were appropriated by owners of the old houses of the town and neighbourhood. *Bye Gones* contain a faculty granted in 1670, to William Gough, wool merchant, Cross Street, for a pew for the purpose of " sitting, praying, kneeling, standing, hearing the Divine offices and burying the dead." When any house was sold or let, the pew would pass with it, and the occupier of the house would have the exclusive right to its use, the door being usually locked against intruders, but an absentee or non-attendant turned the pew into a source of income by letting it at a rent of about a guinea a year. Sometimes a sitting place could be separately purchased and would be conveyed by deed. Such a document, in the possession of an Oswestrian contains the following :—" And also that the said (C.D.) shall and lawfully may from time to time and at all times hereafter peaceably and quietly have hold use occupy possess and enjoy the said seat or sitting place hereby granted and conveyed or intended so to be with the appurtenances without any let suit denial eviction molestation or interruption of by or from any person or persons whomsoever to the

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use and behoof of the said (C.D.) his heirs and assigns for ever."

In writing upon the Church, T. Edwards in his *History* (1819) observes :—" There is no space alloted for poor people to attend service, a circumstance much to be lamented." The " free " sitting places for the use of the poor, and others left uninvited into a pew, were simply narrow planks hinged to the perpendicular ends of the pews, wherever means existed of doing so. These were raised as required, and the feet of the occupants either dangled against the ends of the pews or rested upon the stone floor of the aisle, and when such seats were fully occupied the rest of the congregation had great difficulty in getting into their pews, for the aisles were only five feet wide.

Upon the induction of the Rev. W. Howell Evans, in February 1872, it was announced that certain alterations would be made in the services, and it was in May of that year that the Vicar and the Curate (the latter for the first time) wore the surplice in the pulpit.

Soon afterwards the question of restoring the church was taken up, and a public meeting was held in the Victoria Rooms, at which Mr. J. R. Ormsby Gore, M.P. (afterwards 1st Baron Harlech) presided, when plans prepared by Mr. G. E. Street, were submitted, the outlay being estimated at £7500. The meeting was largely attended and Mr. Street's plans were provisionally adopted, subscriptions to nearly £4000 being promised in the room. By the end of May the list had reached £7300, and in October of the same year the contract (£7125) was let to Mr. Yates of Shifnal. The last service in the unrestored church was held on 17th November, 1872. The restoration included a chancel with aisles, the south aisle being fitted up as a chapel, a long nave with north side of equal length, two south aisles and a short north transept. It also comprised new seats in place of the high-back pews (the Incorporated Society for Building &c. Churches granted £100 upon condition (accepted) that 730 sittings, being half of those in the body of

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the church and all in the chancel aisles, were free and unappropriated), new west doorway, and window, raising and widening of the roof, the erection of a new porch and vestry and the general beautifying of the interior. The work, which at the end cost about £12,650, occupied nearly two years, the building being re-opened in the first week of October, 1874.

Among the special gifts were :—

A small stained glass window, above the south porch, by Mr. F. G. Buller Swete.

Figures of Our Lord, St. Mary and St. Oswald in niches of outer archway of south porch, by Mr. W. Fletcher Rogers.

Pulpit of Caen stone with traceried panels, by Mrs. Howell of Tenby.

Font, by the children. (The old font given in 1667 by Colonel Lloyd, the Governor, whose arms it bears, is now stored in the choir vestry).

Oak Lectern by Mrs. Evans (mother of the Vicar).

Two brass standards with marble bases for lighting the east end, and also two carved oak vestry presses, by Mr. A. C. Arkwright (the latter executed by himself).

A glass and silver gilt flagon, by Sarah, Lady Harlech.

A silver gilt chalice, designed by Mr. Street, inlaid with diamonds and precious stones, and a paten, by the Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley Owen.

Subsequent gifts include :—

An oak chair and desk (designed by Mr. Street), in chancel, by Mr. William Henry Hill, in memory of his parents, Thomas and Edith Ann Hill.

Raising of the east window and a new Reredos, also a brass lectern, by Mrs. Wynne Corrie.

A screen and Reredos in the morning chapel, to the memory of Mr. Stanley Leighton, M.P.

Installation of electric light, in memory of Dr. Robert Blaikie.

A chancel screen, in memory of Lady Frances Lloyd, born May 18th, 1830, died 31st January, 1886, by her husband, Colonel Lloyd, Aston.

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A north transept, the cost being defrayed out of a legacy bequeathed by the late Mr. William Price, formerly of Cross Street, printer, and which became available upon the death of his sister, Mrs. Marianna Robinson, on 8th January, 1875. At the point where the north transept joins the outside of the aisle, there was formerly a blank wall containing a large window. That wall was carried out for a distance of twenty-six feet to form the transept, the side walls being new, and in each a three-light window. A further legacy was given to the Churchwardens by Mrs. Robinson, for filling in the large window with stained glass to her memory. Mrs. Robinson also left £1000 to the Mayor and Corporation with directions that the interest was to be distributed in January every year to poor widows resident in the borough and who habitually attended the Church of England. At the last Public Inquiry it was stated that owing to a deficiency of assets the amount received was only £216 which was invested in Consols and yielded an income of about £6 a year.

On All Saints Day, 1912, a choir vestry, that had been formed out of the ground floor of the tower, and the re-opening of the closed doorway into the nave of the church, at a cost of £250, was dedicated to " Benefactors by whose lives and works and gifts this Church has been enriched." The east end of the north chancel, formerly occupied by the choir was fitted up for classes.

Among the other stained glass windows in the church are those to the memory of Miss Eliza Jones, Brook Street House, 1854, Mr. Edward Williams, Lloran House, the Croxon family, Rev. W. Howell Evans, Vicar 1872—1888, Rev. Thomas Salwey, 1877, Rev. Turner Edwards, Vicar of Kinnerley. 1862, and John Ralph, First Baron Harlech.

In a Terrier of 1791 the Church Plate is described thus :—

One large challice, " Given for the use of the Holy Communion in the Parish Church of Oswestry 1707 " 67 oz. 10 dwts. Two waiters, for the use of Oswestry Church, given by Elizabeth

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From a Drawing by] **THE PARISH CHURCH (ST. OSWALD'S) IN 1855.** [Robert Cruikshank.

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Roderick, " ex dono Mrs Elizabeth Roderick to the Parish Church of Oswestry in Salop " 23 oz. 10 dwts. A tall cup and cover, " The gift of Richard Mason of the Hayes Esq unto the Church of Oswestree in the countie of Salop." 30 oz. 5 dwts. A tall cup and cover, " Richard Stanni the elder Mercer was the owner of this cup, given by him to the Perryshe Churche of Oswester, made Anno Do. 1575 " 21 oz. 10 dwts. A tall cup and cover, ex dono Davidi Edwards 1635 " 21 oz. 15 dwts. A small cup and plate, " Edward Edwards, tanner, dedicateth this plate to the service of God, in the Church of Oswestrie the chardge beinge his friends' love at the Baptisme of Francis and Catherine his childrine now both with God. 1631 " 13 oz. 5 dwts. Total 178 oz. 5 dwts.

The Registers, beginning with the year 1558 and consisting of 31 volumes down to 1909, contain many interesting and quaintly worded entries, of which the following are a few :—

" 1580. Aug. 31, Will'm Llyn (Gwilym Lleyn) Bardus obüt."

" 1596. Sep. Richard ye child of Ed'd ap Thomas Gryffyth which was drowned in a watter pitt in his father's backside (rear of premises), buried the 29th day."

" 1596. Dec. John ap John als o'r wlad laborer bur. eod die.'

" 1597. David ap Rynalde ap John Lewis, slaine the neinth daie by Thom's Price one of the S'riants at mace of the towne of Oswr, bur. 11° die "

1601 —— Gwen, being a nideat and not able to discern. bur "

1605 Jan. 7. Catheryn the wife of Doctor Morgan late Bushope of Saincte Assaphe. bur." (Bishop William Morgan the translator of the Bible into Welsh, was Vicar of Oswestry, by deputy, 1599-1602.)

" 1614. May 10. Reece Kain (Rhys Cain) poet (and genealogist) bur."

" 1615 Nov. 24. Thomas Edwards clerke who had a chaunce (mischance) in the steeple, bur."

" 1632. Nov. Catheringe the wife of David y goe, buried the 25th day."

" 1682. July 11. William Howell, Gronwen, a very honest man, bur."

" 1685. April 26. Roger Thomas of Treverclawdd, collier, that dyed in Rondle Howell's Coole pit, the earth fell upon him and killed him, bur."

1688 June 14. Two unbaptized children of Samuel Thomas of Wooton at Aston, bur."

" 1689 Aug. 19. Thomas Rogers glover, s. of Edward Rogers of Church St. a young man who drowned by batheing in Sir Robert Owen's pool in the mountain on the Lord's Day. bur."

" 1703. May 29. Robert Vaughan of Crickheth, yeoman, and

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Mary Bennet (being the 5th husband and the 5th wife) married."

"1710. Oct. 25. Isaac & Jacob, twins of Edward Gough, butcher and Elinor, the said Isaac b. 19th about 2 in the morning, and Jacob b. the 19th about 9 at night. bap."

"1709 May 24. Francis, s. of one Francis Houseman & Mary, b. 25th April at The Rose & Crown and secretly bapt. by one Sorrel a Popish Priest belonging to Red Castle, bap."

"1732 Oct. 7. Will. Lyth of Hisland, Samuel Hughes of Aston & Mary Barkley of Aston, who dyed by ye fall of a gable end of brickwork that fell on the 3 at Aston, bur. att Aston."

"1735. Oct. 14. a straing taylor that dyed att Sarah Huggins in Church St., bur."

"1739 Aug. 27. Edward Evans of Willow St. malster yt fell of a load of barley on ye grins of ye pitchfork att ye ward barn in Legg St. bur."

"1742 July 31 Thomas Daniel, smith of Llanvorda yt was soficated after drinking brandy, bur."

"1746 Dec. 14 David Lloyd yt maid molt for John Brooks at Bayley St. bur."

"1747. Nov. 11. A straing woman yt dyde at ye hayes of ye smalpocks, bur."

"1754. May 27. John, child of one John Howel late a soldier, deceased, the child was born on the street by the New Gate on 25th. bap."

"1760 May 21. A stranger from p. of Llansilin, who came to ye faire. Dyed at Oerlyhall by goin whom, bur."

"1773 Feb. 8 Old Jane Reese late of Chirk, aged 103 bur."

"1805 Feb. 21. Elizabeth Basnett, mid wife, who during her practice for 30 years received into the world 1,673 children in this Town and neighbourhood, aged 68, bur."

Upon a stone pedestal near the south porch is fixed the sun dial, an instrument by which the clerk or ringers, from the sun's shadow on the face thereof, ascertained the hour for the ringing of the bells calling the parishioners to Divine service.

Broad Walk. At a vestry meeting held on 17th September, 1738, it was resolved:—"That the Churchwardens of the Town and Parish do cause iron gates to be made between the two pillars facing the town, and a small iron gate and pallisaid between the pillars facing the Broad Walk in the churchyard, and the expense of the gates and pallisaiding shall not exceed the sum of £50." In the Wardens' Accounts later, is a charge of £31 11s. 0d. borne in equal shares by the town and the upper and lower divisions of the

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76 **ENTRANCE TO BROAD WALK,**
with Alcove in the distance.

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parish, the payment being made to "Mr. Davies of Cross Voyle." The brothers, John and Robert Davies country blacksmiths, of Croes Foel, Bersham, near Wrexham, were celebrated gate makers, those upon the entrance to Wrexham churchyard having been executed by them in 1720.

There does not appear to be any record as to when the Walk was formed, but the avenue of trees (as well as the other trees in the churchyard) were planted at the expense of the Rev. Thomas Owen, when vicar of the parish, between the years 1707 and 1713. The appearance of the avenue is broken by a wall upon the north side, but at the time of its erection (about 1800) by the owner of the adjoining premises, there was an understanding that no trees behind it were to be disturbed, and a clause was inserted in the Deed to the effect that the Vicar was at all times to have access to the ground to see that the agreement was kept and was enjoyned to cause fresh trees to be planted when any, by accident or decay, were destroyed. Near the Welsh Walls entrance is a tablet which states :—"This Wall was rebuilt in 1840 by John Jones of Brook Street."

At the top of the Broad Walk, and facing Church Street, was an Alcove or Summer House, and is referred to in the Terrier of 1791. In an unprinted Diary kept by "Mr. M." who in 1801 made a tour through Wales, and upon his way spent two days in Oswestry, there is an entry :—"On the right (of the Church) is a broad gravel walk, shaded by two rows of tall elms and finished by a circular alcove, with a bench for those who choose to contemplate among the tombs." And again in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May, 1810, it is thus described :—"On the north side of the churchyard is a pleasant walk sheltered by a double row of trees, and at the top is a handsome alcove 'from storms a shelter, from heat a shade.'" In a *Tour in Wales* published during the summer of the same year, the writer says :—"At the end of a Walk in the churchyard is a building which seemed like a coach-house, we were rather surprised and

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amused at being told that it was a summer-house and belonged to the parish." Like other conveniences not under control or supervision, it became the resort of idlers and questionable characters, and at several vestries from 1805 to 1827, resolutions were passed that it be pulled down, but no further action was taken. A writer on "Former Days" in *Bye Gones* states :—"At the top of the Broad Walk was an Arbour and I recollect that about 1850 a commercial traveller died of Asiatic cholera at the Wynnstay Arms, and his body was removed to this building, as a mortuary." The building was taken down in 1854.

What is now known as the New Churchyard was formerly the Vicar's Croft, obtained by an exchange with the late Mr. Lloyd, Swan Hill, (owner of "The Great House." Church Street), for the site of the Vicarage destroyed in 1644, and which was between the top of the Broad Walk and Cae-glas. This croft was again exchanged by Lord Powis for what is now the Vicar's land in Salop Road, and in the beginning of the last century he made a free gift of it to the parish for the purposes of burial. A stone wall was erected along three sides and the ground consecrated by Bishop Luxmore, in October, 1817. The gate posts are inscribed :—R. Thomas, D. Skellorn, R. Roberts, R. Bill, Churchwardens.

St. David's Church. In Thomas' *History of the Diocese* it is stated that in 1749 there was a Welsh sermon and service at St. Oswald's in the morning every second Sunday. (The Rev. Goronwy Owen, M.A., described in *Eminent Welshman*, as "one of the greatest poets among the Welsh," and who married Ellinor Hughes, of Selattyn, was Curate here in 1747.) This arrangement probably continued until 1814, for the Whittington Parish Register of that year contains the following entry :—"Welsh services discontinued in Oswestry Church."

Welsh services were afterwards carried on in a room over the Town Clerk's Office, Bailey Head, until 1821, when Trefonen Chapel was built and consecra-

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78 THE BROAD WALK. (Page 77).

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ted with a view to meeting the spiritual needs of the Welsh portion of the parishioners prevailimg mostly in that district. The cross aisle of the parish church was decorated as late as 1801 with painted boards containing the Commandments, the Lord's Prayer, and the Creed, in Welsh.

During the incumbency of the Rev. Thomas Salwey (1823—1871) the Welsh speaking church people of the town were left without any provision, but upon his resignation in January, 1871, and the acceptance of the living by the Rev. W. Howell Evans, Bishop Hughes of St. Asaph objected to the preferment on the ground of the vicar-designate's inability to speak Welsh, and the objection was not withdrawn until an undertaking was given that a Welsh curate would be appointed. In July, 1872, Welsh services in connection with the Parish Church were established in the Victoria Rooms, and upon September 13th, Holy Communion was administered for the first time, when there were 18 communicants, and upon the 24th October a Welsh wedding took place in the Parish Church. Shortly afterwards a corrugated iron building was erected in the new churchyard and dedicated in the name of St. David, the Welsh patron saint. The hexagonal font with foliated panels was transferred here from Trinity Church.

This structure did service until 1912 when it was decided to erect a more substantial building. Plans were drawn, and a design, after what is known as the early English period of gothic architecture, to seat 200 persons,and with a vestry on north side of chancel, was accepted, the cost being estimated at nearly £1000. The vicar, architect, and builder being freemasons, the corner stone was laid with masonic ceremony by a right worthy brother in that craft, in the person of Sir Offley Wakeman, Bart., Grand Master of the province of Shropshire, in the presence of a large attendance of representative masons, in their full masonic regalia, on the 25th July, 1912.

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The inscription upon the stone reads :—

" Gosodwyd y Garreg hon gan y Marchog Offley Wakeman, Barwnig, R.W.P.G.M. Seiri Rhyddion Amwythig, Gorphenaf 25ain 1912.

W. M. B. Lutener, Ficer,
W. H. Spaull, F.R.I.B.A., Pensaer,
W. Felton, Adeiladydd."

The altar table therein, bearing date 1672, is of oak, and was in use in the mother church before the restoration of 1872. The three stained glass windows in the old building were retained, and the new edifice opened upon Ascension day (May 1st) 1913.

Next to the Broad Walk comes what was originally one residence, erected by Mr. Robert Lloyd, Sen., of Swan Hill, for, (it is believed) his son Robert. The Selattyn Register contains the following entry :— " Mr. Robert Lloyd of Swan Hill's house, adjoining the churchyard in Oswestry was began in 1776 and finished 1779." Mr. Robert Lloyd the younger, was born in 1745. He married Jane, daughter and co-heir of Richard Williams of Penbedw in the parish of Nannerch, youngest surviving son of Sir William Williams of Llanforda, baronet, by his third wife Annabella, daughter and heir of Thomas Lloyd of Drenewydd, Whittington. He was sheriff of Merioneth for 1795-6, mayor of Oswestry 1798, and died 3rd October, 1803, aged fifty-eight, his wife and two daughters, Annabella and Jane surviving. His only son, Robert Watkin, died in 1794, at the age of seventeen. (*History of Selattyn.*) Mrs. Lloyd died in 1820 aged sixty-five. In the Salopian Journal of 12th January, 1803, there appeared an advertisement of a three days sale of furniture and effects at " The Great House," Church Street.

Mr. Lloyd's eldest daughter Annabella was married in 1805 to Mr. Edward Gatacre, of Gatacre Hall, Claverley, in this county, and the youngest, Jane, to Mr. John Wynne Eyton, of Leeswood, in the county of Flint, and upon the death of the two last named, without issue, their moiety of Mr. Lloyd's estate reverted to the Gatacres, who still hold considerable property in this district.

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Soon after the sale of 1803 the "Great House" was purchased by Mr. John Jones, Sen., and by him converted into two dwellings. The residence next to Broad Walk was named The Lymes, and in 1845 was in the occupation of Mr. John Jones, Jun., mayor 1833 and 1848, and father of Messrs. John Jones of Shelbrook and H. Hanmer Jones of Mossfields, Whitchurch. Mr. Jones left here for Shelbrook Hill, and died there in 1874, aged seventy-nine. The next occupier was Dr. George Harvey Williams, mayor 1854 and 1855 and whose wife was Ellen, third daughter of Mr. Joseph Cooper, timber merchant, Wrexham. Dr. Williams remained until 1862 when Mr. Thomas Hill became owner and occupier until 1871 and it was then purchased for the purposes of a vicarage, at a cost of £2500, of which £2000 was contributed by the Earl of Powis, patron of the living, and the remainder raised by the subscription of a few individuals (Church History). The house was occupied as such until about three years ago, when expenses in connection with the maintenance of the premises went up so enormously that the vicar decided to remove to the Old Vicarage in Upper Brook Street. The matter was duly brought before the Church Council, who finding that it was impossible for any incumbent to keep up such extensive premises, unless endowed with considerable private means, recommended the sale thereof, subject to the reservation of a portion of the ground upon which a new vicarage may be erected. Such recommendation was unanimously approved at the Easter Vestry of 1919. The ground so reserved is believed to have been the site of the vicarage destroyed by fire in 1644.

The adjoining dwelling is called Bellan House, and, in 1803, was in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Longueville Jones, mayor 1807 and founder of the legal firm of Messrs. Longueville & Co. Mr. T. Longueville Jones was the son of Captain Thomas Jones of Willow House, Wrexham, (killed in a duel at Whitchurch in 1799, and son of Thomas Jones by his wife Margaretta Maria, eldest daughter

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of Sir Thomas Longueville, Bart., of Esclusham Hall, near Wrexham, by his wife Margaret Conway, daughter and co-heir of Henry Conway, who was descended from Thomas Percy, seventh Earl of Northumberland, beheaded 22nd August, 1572. *Arch. Camb.*) by his first wife, Miss Jane Jones of, Aberkin, Carnarvonshire, and was born Sept. 8th, 1768. Upon being admitted a solicitor he came to Oswestry and entered into partnership with Mr. Lewis Jones, town clerk, which was dissolved in April, 1805. He married in 1796, Anne, daughter of Mr. John Gibbons of the Poplars, and in the following year, upon the death of Mr. John Lloyd, solicitor, was elected coroner for the district. In accordance with the will of Mr. Richard Wilding, who married a granddaughter of Sir Thomas Longueville, Bart., the last of the male line of that family, who died in 1759, Mr. Longueville Jones, in 1825, assumed the surname of Longueville. (*Arch. Camb.*) He died in 1831, after which the house became occupied by Mr. John Hunt, but it was void in 1845. The next tenant was Mr. Benjamin Churchill, surveyor to the post office, and who did so much towards improving the postal facilities of the town and neighbourhood. Mr. Churchill sat on the town council for a short time, retired from the post office in 1854 and died the following year.

The next occupier was Mr. Roberts, who left in 1858, and after being void another year, was taken by Mr. Thomas Hill. He remained a few years and then removed to the Lymes, when Mr. John Jones (Messrs. Longueville & Co.), who married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. David Edwards, currier, became occupier. Mr. Jones died in 1883, and was succeeded by Dr. William Alma Aylmer Lewis. Dr. Lewis was born at Chester in 1855, but he belongs to an old Oswestry family. He came to the Grammar School here when ten years of age, and twenty-four years later entered into partnership with his uncle, Dr. J. Sides Davies of The Poplars, whom he succeeded as coroner for the district in 1881. He has served many years on the town council, and was mayor 1897 and 1898. Upon

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THE GREAT HOUSE, Church Street. Erected 1779. Page 80.

 CAE GLAS MANSION—Demolished. Page 83.

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the death of Alderman Weaver he removed to Tymaen where he still resides.

Immediately beyond the entrance to Bellan House, and standing back some distance from the street, was Cae Glas mansion, and which is referred to in the Church Terrier of 1791, as " belonging to the Miss Barretts." In an old Particular of Sale it is described as a three storeyed house, showing a handsome frontage to Church Street, with a " pillared entrance, railings and four gates." The house comprised entrance hall, breakfast and drawing rooms, the usual requisite offices, twelve bed and dressing rooms and spacious cellaring. The extensive outbuildings (detached) were on the north side of the premises, dog kennels on the south side, and the kitchen and flower gardens with conservatories, &c., extended the whole length of the north boundary, and with the house, buildings and shrubberies covered an area of nearly two acres. The lawn, belonging, upon which on the western boundary was a gardener's cottage, and adjoining this a plunge-bath with dressing rooms attached, were over eight acres in extent. The property in the seventeenth century formed part of the estate of the Kynastons of Maesbury, whose names appear in the lord's rent roll, until 1707, as liable for chief rent in respect of " cae glasse " belonging to them in " church streete." The occupier of the mansion in 1728 was Vaughan Barrett, gentleman, who in that year, at Selattyn, married Mary, daughter of Thomas Kynaston of Maesbury Hall, and their son, the Rev. Thomas Barrett (born 1731) became the owner. The latter died without issue at Woodhouse in 1765, and was buried at Oswestry. He was succeeded by his sisters Elizabeth and Letitia, described as spinsters, who acquired some adjoining ground upon the north side that belonged to Miss Phebe Lloyd of Llwynymaen and Mr. Thomas Cornes of Oswestry, maltster. Miss Elizzabeth Barrett died in 1792, survived by her sister Letitia, who died in 1803. In the Salopian Journal of 6th April, 1803, the following appears under the deaths :—" Friday,

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the 25th ulto, at her lodgings in Bath, aged 73 (71) Mrs. (Miss) Barrett, a lady of very amiable and benevolent disposition, generous to her tenants, and charitable to the poor. Her remains arrived at the Talbot in this Town (Shrewsbury) on Saturday last, and on the following day proceded to Oswestry for interrment." Affixed to the wall inside of St. Oswald's church is a tablet inscribed :—" Vaughan Barrett Esq. died 17 Oct. 1772 aged..... years. Mary, relict of Vaughan Barrett Esq. daughter of Thomas Kynaston of Maesbury Hall in the County of Salop, died 28 May 1779, aged . . . . years, Elizabeth daughter of Vaughan and Mary Barrett died 6 March 1792 aged 58 years, Letitia, daughter of Vaughan and Mary Barrett died 25 March 1803 aged 71 years. This testimony of affection and regard is erected to their memory by their kinsman Edward Desbrowe Esq. of Walton upon Trent in the County of Derby." There is another tablet near " To the memory of Thomas Kynaston (father of Mrs. Barrett) of Maesbury, Esq. who died in 1710 aged 33."

The next owner of the property was the Rev. Nathaniel Roberts, who in 1834 sold it to Mr. Thomas Jones of Chester, architect, the occupiers previous to the sale being, firstly, Mrs. Rebecca Mytton, and secondly Mr. William Roberts, brother of the owner. The mansion was standing at the date of sale, but for some reason or other it was demolished soon afterwards, and the materials used in the erection of the two existing and similarly designed houses, Nos. 34 and 36 respectively.

In 1851 it was proposed to form a street along the northern boundary, connecting Church Street with the Welsh Walls and to offer the ground adjoining as building sites, but the scheme was abandoned.

Mr. Thomas Jones died in 1859, the property soon afterwards passing to his nephew, Mr. Charles Jones of Rossett, who in November, 1908, wrote the Town Council, offering to sell the land, conditionally upon its conversion into a public park and pleasure ground, together with the messuages, offices and

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premises (Nos. 34 and 36) occupied by Messrs. Bull, for the sum of £6,000, and, further, that he was willing to contribute £200 towards the laying out of the grounds. Such a generous offer was at once gratefully accepted, for only a few years previously £10,000 was asked for the land alone. After being laid out, and the erection of shelter sheds, &c., the park was formally opened to the public on June 23rd, 1910.

In 1845 the first of these new houses (No. 36) was occupied by Mr. William Griffiths. Mr. Thomas Edwards, a retired printer (from No. 6, The Cross), was also here up to the time of his death in 1871, after which Miss Harriett Jones (the ironmonger) and Mrs. Rees, widow of Mr. D. D. Rees, late Manager of North and South Wales Bank, Willow Street, became the occupiers.

The other house (No. 34) was in 1845 occupied by Mrs. Elizabeth Kyffin. She was succeeded by Mr. William Isaac Bull, founder of the legal firm of Messrs. Bull and Sons. Mr. Bull, who was born at Chelsea in 1819, came to Oswestry in 1835, and after serving his articles with Mr. R. J. Croxon, was admitted to the law in 1841. He married Jane, daughter of Mr. Thomas Evans, Tynymaes, Llanrhaiadr, became Clerk of the Peace for the Borough in 1856, Clerk to the Directors of the Incorporation in 1858, and subsequently to several other local authorities. Mr. Bull sat in the town council for some years, and died in 1893..

No. 32 (Lloyds Bank Ld.) In 1845 the occupier was Mr. Thomas Jones, who was succeeded by Mr. Walter Edwards, druggist, and Dr. Robert Blaikie (1853). Dr. Blaikie (son of Dr. Robert Blaikie who died in 1824) was born in the town, and early in life was articled to Dr. Peploe Cartwright, subsequently becoming his assistant, afterwards his partner, and ultimately senior partner of the firm. He married, in 1851, Margaret, daughter of Mr. John Hayward, solicitor, (Mayor 1841), and early in the sixties removed to No. 33, Church Street, being succeeded

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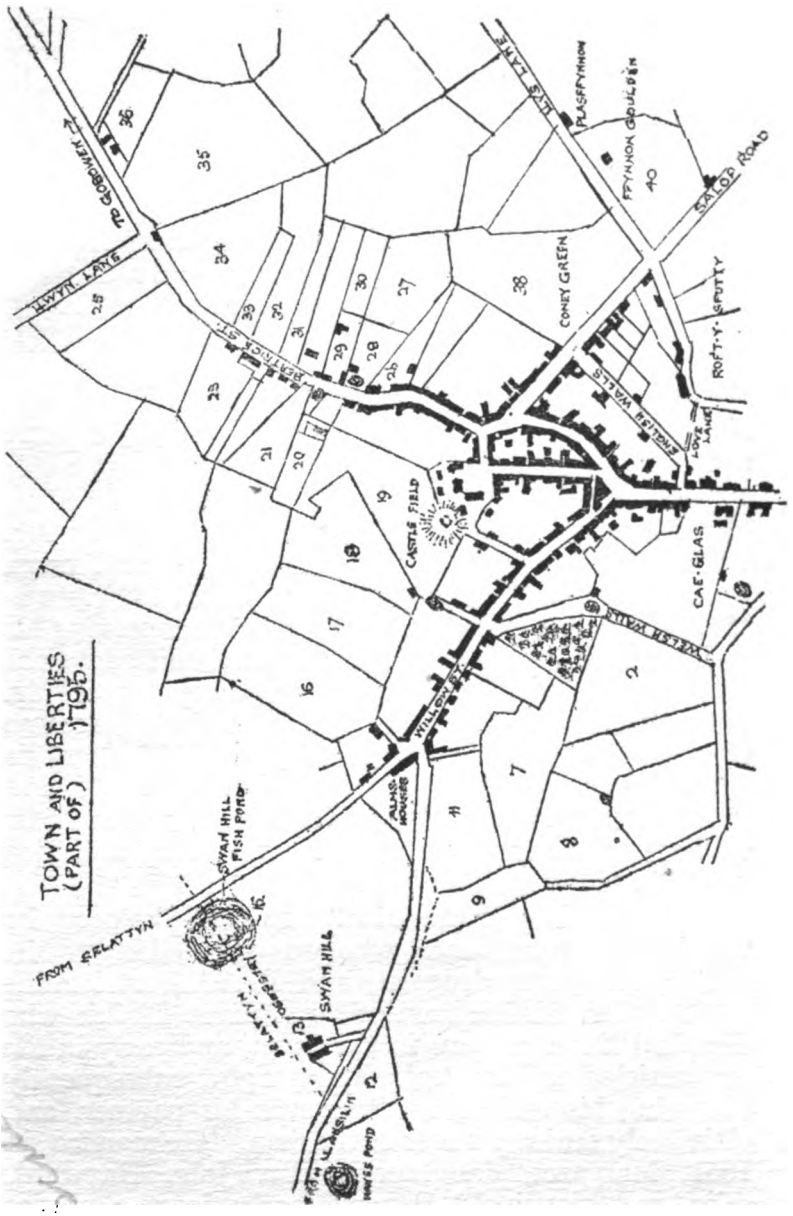

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here by Dr. Robert de la Poer Beresford. Dr. Beresford was born in London in 1843, and educated in Dublin, Glasgow, and London. He came to Oswestry in 1865, and in 1868 was elected Medical Officer of Health. He is therefore the oldest of the borough officials. He was mayor in 1909 and 1910. It was during his occupation that these premises underwent considerable alteration. He left here for No. 66, Willow Street, after when, to meet the requirements of the Bank, the premises were further altered.

Post Office Yard. This was formerly known as Gibralter Yard and contained several cottages and outbuildings, in one of which, from 1866 to 1868, the United Methodist Free Church held religious services.

Post Office. This block, in 1845, belonged to Mr. Richard Powell, brother-in-law to Mr. Thomas Pryce, ironmonger. It afterwards came into the hands of Mr. Edward Evans, builder, who named it Gibralter Buildings. Years ago there were two shops fronting the street. Upon the first floor of the first shop was the office of Messrs. Roberts & Thomas, who, in 1852, were followed by the Stamp Distributer from No. 58, Willow Street, and the Local Depot of the S.P.C.K., under the management of Mr. John Evans. The ground floor was occupied by Mr. Richard Powell (1852) in the hosiery business, who was succeeded by Messrs. Edward Rogers, draper (1857), Thomas Mitchell, tailor (1860), George Perks, grocer (who in 1862 left for Albion Hill), Davies & Williams, drapers (1863), A. H. Coulson, accountant, and A. & W. Coulson, accountants. The Post Office was removed here from No. 17, Willow Street, in 1879.

The next shop was occupied by the Misses Mytton & Diggory in 1852, Miss Sarah Mytton, milliner, 1854, Mr. Trill, milliner, 1855, Miss Grainger, dyer, Mr. Henry Syars, 1859, Mr. Henry Jones, music warehouse, 1862, Mr. Edward J. Roberts, in the like business, 1866, Messrs. Pugh & Jones, auctioneers, 1867, Pugh & Stokes, Singer's Machine Co., and Miss Hall, stationer, 1886. Directly afterwards it was

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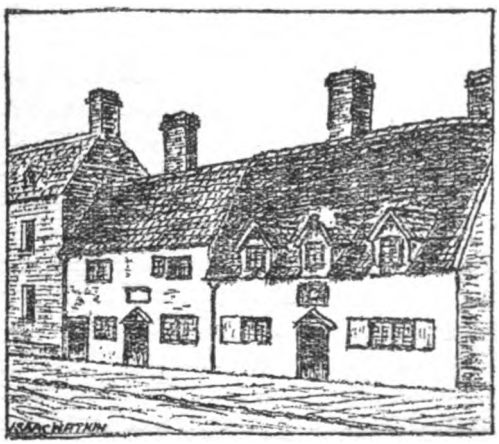
taken to enlarge the Post Office, when the whole of the front was rebuilt. Affixed to the central pilaster of the building is a brass plate inscribed :—" The clock above this plate, the property of the Corporation, was erected by public subscription, in memory of John Askew Roberts, Justice of the Peace for this borough, whose services in connection with periodical literature and permanent work in elucidating and illustrating the history and antiquities of Wales and his native town and county, seemed worthy of enduring record. Born at Oswestry 1826, died at Oswestry 1884. This clock was presented to the Corporation, June 24th, 1890."

As Church Street finished off here in the olden times we will retrace our steps to the " Sun Corner " so as to notice the houses upon the east side.



THE SUN INN, CHURCH STREET, 1860.

Sun Inn. The building that formerly stood here was a low roofed, half-timber structure, with very small windows, and the ground floor about a step below the side path, and as the exterior was always kept nicely whitewashed, it presented a quaint and pleasing object to the eye upon approaching the town from Pentrepoeth or Brook Street. It was demolished about forty years ago, and rebuilt in modern style. The " Signe of ye Sunne " appears in the parish

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registers in 1672, John Tomkies being mentioned as the occupier in 1685, and John Rogers in 1707, Thomas Minnet in 1787 and John Minnet in 1810. A Friendly Society was established here in 1765. The house was kept for almost a generation by Mr. Thomas Tyley, who was here in 1845. Mr. John Menlove held it in 1862 and he was succeeded by Mr. Robert Edwards, who was owner and occupier at the time the alterations were being carried out.

Upon the site of the adjoining premises there formerly stood a shop that belonged to Mr. John Bentley and was occupied early last century by Mr. James Pope, confectioner, who died in 1835. The business was continued by his widow, Mrs. Anne Pope, who died in 1865. She was succeeded by Miss Elizabeth Thomas, being followed by Mr. John Morris (Briwfab) grocer, and Mr. Lloyd Evans, who died in 1894.

No. 65 was the residence of Mr. John Bentley, who for many years was the parish clerk of St. Oswald's church, and also kept a select school for boys. He died in 1862 at eighty years of age. His daughters were very successful teachers of music, and his son, Mr. T. A. Bentley, was for fifty one years professor of modern languages at Shrewsbury School, and exceedingly popular as a reader of light humourous pieces at public gatherings in his native town.

The Bell Inn. This is an ancient half-timber house, and evidently coeval with several of the other old Inns of the town, such as The Butcher's Arms, Upper White Lion, &c. It is one of the houses that has not undergone much restoration internally, but the doors and windows are modern, while the true character of the front is hidden by plaster and paint. Its name appears in the parish registers in 1663 (John Jones tenant), 1682 (Thomas Jones), 1685 (John Evans), and 1781. In March, 1783, the public vestry was " adjourned to the dwelling house of Mr. Richard Moody, known by the sign of the Bell Inn." The business transacted at such adjournment is not recorded. The premises at that time belonged to Mr.

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Richard Moody, who subsequently adopted the name of Kynaston. He died about 1820 at one of his houses in Lower Brook Street. Other occupiers named are Randolph Howell (1808), Mrs. Howell, Messrs. William Williams (1845), Charles Roberts (1856), Mrs. Mary Roberts (1868), John Evans (for Mrs. John Davies 1868) and Thomas Davies who died in 1913.

No. 57a. Mr. Hammonds, a farrier, was the occupier in 1845, Mr. William George, about 1869, and Mrs. Thompson in 1872.

No. 57 (Mr. R. T. Davies). The occupier in 1845 was Mr. Thomas Dean, followed by Messrs. Henry Berry, hairdresser (1857), and Frederick Parry, butcher, who died in 1891.

Adjoining No. 57 is a passage leading to several cottages called the Bell Yard. It was in one of these, occupied by Susannah Evans, that a preaching service was held in 1798, by a Welsh Calvinistic Methodist named John Ellis. As soon as the service commenced an officer stepped forward and ordered John Ellis to accompany him before the mayor, Mr. Robert Lloyd of the "Great House," solicitor. The preacher at first refused to obey the order, but it evoked a threat that unless he did so his head would be split with a stick. John Ellis was followed to the Bailey Head by a motley crowd, beating tin cans, kettles, &c. Upon inquiries by the mayor however it was found that the preacher was licensed, and that the house was also duly registered for the holding of such meetings. The officer was thereupon severely reprimanded, and ordered to escort John Ellis back to the place from whence he had been taken. Susannah Evans was given notice to quit immediately, and this only commenced her persecution, for no sooner had she taken another house and had it licensed, she was forthwith ordered to leave, the same treatment being meted to her five times in succession.

No. 55 (Mr. Arthur Thomas) has been entirely rebuilt. It formerly belonged to Mrs. Mary Stevens, and for many years a baking and confectionery business was carried on successively by Mr. Charles

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Walker, Mrs. Ann Walker, his widow, and John Walker their son. After the alterations it was occupied for a few years by Mr. Joseph Cartwright, grocer.

No. 53 (Mr. Cotton) has also been rebuilt. The property, together with some cottages in the rear, belonged, in 1845, to Mr. David Jones, shoemaker, father of Mr. John Jones, solicitor. Mr. Jones was also the occupier at that time. It was afterwards converted into a butcher's shop for Mr. Evan Evans, brother of the late Mr. G. Soley Evans, ironmonger. He was followed in the same business by Mr. Charles J. Poole, and upon the latter's removal to No. 45, the place became a confectioner's shop and kept by the Misses M. & E. Sharpe. They were succeeded by Mr. Albert Knowles, who only occupied for a short time. Then came Mr. Edward Price as baker and confectioner, and it was during his tenancy that the premises were entirely rebuilt.

No. 51 (Mr. Reeves). This was formerly a low dwelling, with the ground floor quite a foot below the side path, and in 1845 belonged to the same owners as No. 53. The occupier was Mr. Charles Owen Jones, sexton of the parish church for upwards of forty years, and who died in 1862. He was succeeded in the office by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Jones, who also kept a registry office for servants. The latter business was continued by her daughter, who became the first wife of Mr. William Martin, coal merchant, mayor 1904. In 1876 Mr. Martin purchased the house, and which soon afterwards was by him completely rebuilt, making a house, No. 51 for his own occupation, and the front ground floor into a lock-up shop. The first to occupy the new shop was Miss Emery (1890) succeeded by Miss Phillips in 1904.

The property originally belonged to Mr. Francis Shore, who, by his Will in 1697, devised his " mansion house tenement or burgage " in Oswestry to Edward Rogers of Buckley Farm and Ann Edwards and the heirs of the survivor, and charged it with the payment of twenty shillings yearly, to the poor of the town of Oswestry, to be distributed upon St. Thomas' day at

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the discretion of the said Edward Rogers and Ann Edwards and the heirs of the survivor. Mr. David Jones inherited the property, and as heir at law, continued the distribution yearly, according to his own discretion, but at an Inquiry, held in 1898, it was stated that the charity was nonexistent when the property was acquired by Mr. Martin.

No. 47 (Oak Inn). These premises have been partly rebuilt. The earliest mention thereof is in 1720, when the occupier was John Davies, brewer.

Under the charter of Richard II it was provided that whoever lived in the house of a burgess and happened to die there, the burgess was to have a heriot after his decease, in the same manner as the *Uchelwyr* or freeholders on the lands of the lord in the hundred of Oswestry. This house was leased in 1720 for a term of twenty-one years at the annual rent of one pound fifteen shillings, and the lessor, in addition, exercised his right under the said charter, and stipulated for the payment of " two shillings and sixpence in lieu of an Heriott after the death of the principal tenant dieing on the premises during the said term." (*Bye Gones.*)

In 1746, 1750, and 1797 it is referred to as "The Royal Oak." Other occupiers have been John Stevens (1828), Mrs. Mary Stevens (1846), Messrs. James Redrobe (1856), Edward Pryce (1861), J. Whittall (1862), David James (1863), and Edwin Brown.

No. 45 (Mr. Vincent) was formerly a public house called The Albion Inn. Whilst an inn the occupiers were Mr. James Jenkins (1844), Mr. Margaret Gee (1852), Messrs. Thomas Nurse (1855), Eli Bromley (1862), John Davies (1866), John Jones (1873), and William Williams (1874). The license was dropped in 1876 when the premises were converted into a butcher's shop for Mr. Charles J. Poole, who removed from No. 53.

Wynnstay Arms Hotel. This was formerly called the Bowling Green, and oft times The Cross Foxes, from its being a part of the Wynnstay estate.

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According to a record of 1769, an ox was roasted " oposit the Bowling Greene Sir W't Wins Wynne Bart and Lady Hariot marige day " (*Bye Gones*) and in the records of the Quarter Sessions of the eighteenth century it is noted that the Court frequently adjourned to the " Bowling Green," and also in the Parish Books there is mention of Vestry meetings being held in the " Bowling Green " and " Cross Foxes." The occupier in 1727 was John Simonds succeeded by Richard Salusbury who died in 1779. His widow continued the tenancy up to the date of her death in 1785, after which event her son, Mr. Richard Salusbury, mayor 1786, became tenant, but only for one year, when the license was transferred to his sister for about another year, and then granted to Mr. Thomas Moody. After a brief stay, he was succeeded by Mr. Slade. Up to the time of his entry the place was only an ordinary public house, but about 1800, the coaching traffic between London and Holyhead increased very much, and Oswestry being upon the highroad between these places, considerable additions and improvements were then carried out to the premises.

Mr. Slade was also a manufacturer, for it is upon record that a stack of flax belonging to him on Maesylan took fire and was destroyed, and also in an account of the Shropshire Spring Assizes of 1796, " Edward Jones, for stealing woollen yarn from the manufactory of Mr. Slade of Oswestry, was sentenced to seven years penal servitude."

In August 1801, the following advertisement appeared in a Shrewsbury paper :—" A capital Inn to be let upon the great road from London to Holyhead. The Cross Foxes, Oswestry, in the County of Salop, &c. Apply to Mr. Croxon, Oswestry." Mr. Slade must therefore have left about then, for early in 1802 the following announcement was made in the same paper :—

" The Bowling Green (or Sir Watkin Williams Wynn's Arms) Oswestry. William Leigh, from Hockley House, begs leave to acquaint the nobility, gentry,

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and others travelling from Ireland to London, Bath, Bristol, &c., that he has taken and entered on the above Inn on the great road from Holyhead to London, &c."

The post office was removed here from Mrs. Evans, The Cross, on 1st January, 1809. "In January 1776 there was such a fall of snow (7 feet deep) and has rendered it impossible for the the mails to pass, the London bag did not come to Oswestry from the 8th till the 16th." (Whittington Registers). The Royal Mail Coach, London to Holyhead, first passed through the town on the 6th Sept. 1808, on which occasion great rejoicing took place, the new route (it previously passed through Chester) being a saving of twenty two miles. It was usual for the mail coming from Shrewsbury to enter the town up what is now the Victoria Road, and the horses to be changed at this hotel.

Mr. Leigh, after an occupation of some years, left for Osburn's Hotel, Bailey Street, taking the post office with him. After the removal of the latter, the Royal Mail went up Salop Road and changed horses at the Cross Keys, a car from the Wynnstay Arms being in waiting at the junction of the roads near the cemetery to convey such travellers as desired to put up at this hotel. The next tenant was Mr. James Knight (1828), who was followed by Mr. Thomas Hunt, and it was during his occupation that the house became generally known as the Wynnstay Arms Hotel.

The illiterate writer of an old diary, describing the visit of the Princess Victoria and the Duchess of Kent to Oswestry and Wynnstay in 1832, says:—

,' The Duches of Kent and Princes Victoria passed throu Oswestry from Powis Castel to Winstay Aug. 4, 1832. Tom Kinaston got drunk and whas turned from Mr. Knites [Mr. Knight, the then landlord of the Wynnstay Hotel] as Post Boy . also a woman kild at Winstay, thear being such a crowd to Sea the Royal Pursaneags. Oswestry was the seam as a wood from Pentry Poeth to Betry St., with arches across the streets and frunt of the houses all covered with Laurel and ock,"

Dr. Don Debt Mayor.

(Dr. Donne, Deputy Mayor.)

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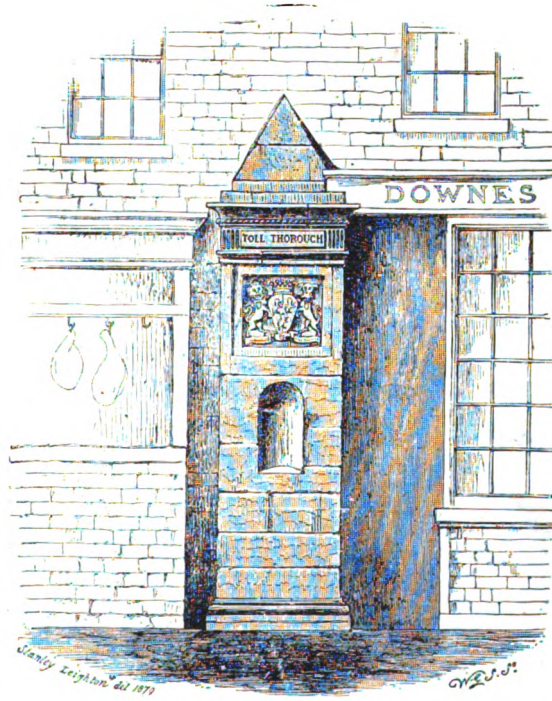

94 (By permission of Major Parker Leighton).

NEW-GATE PILLAR, in Church Street. (Page 116).

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Mr. Hunt died in 1832, and was succeeded by Mr. John Goodwin. After him came Mr. David Lloyd from Cross Keys Hotel, tenant of Llwynmaen farm, and mayor 1861-2. He was father of the Misses Lloyd of The Hayes and Upper Brook Street, and occupied until 1867, when the license was transferred to Mr. Collier and subsequently to Mr. John Cawley. Mr. Cawley's tenancy continued until 1871, when he was succeeded by Mr. Robert Thomas until 1873, Mr. J. B. Murless until 1877 and then Mr. Charles Drew, who died in 1917.

In a paper on " Former Days," which appeared in the *Advertizer*, the writer stated that at the annual Wakes, dipping for rolls and treacle, and other " manly " sports took place in front of the Wynnstay Hotel.

Previous to the erection of the Public Hall and Victoria Rooms, public meetings and entertainments were usually held in the large assembly room of the Hotel. It was here on the 30th December, 1834, that the Oswestry Temperance Society (the first) was formed. The meeting (of about sixty persons) was presided over by the Rev. A. Lloyd, and stirring addresses were delivered by a deputation from the Bible Society and the Rev. T. W. Jenkyn, Congregational Minister. *Shrewsbury Chronicle.*

In pre-railway days, the coach "Accommodation" ran from here to Shrewsbury, daily, starting at seven o'clock in the morning.

The several houses and premises from this point to and including the surgery adjoining passage leading to the English Walls, were at one time also part of the Wynnstay estate.

No. 41 (Mr. Shearer). The occupier in 1815 was Miss Watson, who was succeeded by the Misses H. and A. Evans, sisters of Mr. J. Evans-Vaughan. Mr. Edward Oswell, solicitor, had an office here whilst he lived at The Derwen.

No. 39 (Dr. Bullock), is where Mr. George Dorsett Owen, wine merchant, resided. Mr. Owen, son of Mr. John Owen, of Bailey Street, grocer, was born in 1787,

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mayor 1838, and died in the following year, aged fifty-one. He was succeeded by his widow, Mrs. Emma Jane Owen, who died twenty years later. Mr. Charles Whitley Owen, mayor 1873, was their son. Mr. Owen, to commemorate his mayoralty, presented the town with the fine two-faced chimimg clock, now in the tower of St. Oswald's Church. He afterwards removed to Fronfraith, Abermule,where he died about two years ago.

No. 35 (Gittins, Ltd,, Garage), known as The Lawn, was built by the Croxon family, the first of whom came from Wrexham in the eighteenth century. Mr. John Croxon and his son Richard were made freemen of the borough in 1772. Two years afterwards the first-named was mayor of the town, and his son, Richard, in 1801. The last-named gentleman was one of the founders of the Old Bank. Mr. John Croxon was mayor in 1812 and it was during his mayoralty that Thomas Williams, alias Cranberry, son of a shoemaker at Porthywaen, and who at the early age of thirteen was convicted of stealing and sentenced to be transported for seven years, made his escape, in less than seven weeks time, from a subsequent sentence of transportation for life, for housebreaking, and on his way home stole a horse at Welshpool, which he rode to Oswestry, where there was a fair next day. After standing out for a price of fifty guineas, the animal at the end of the day was sold for sixteen guineas, but the purchaser declined to pay without a reference being given. Cranberry, to evade another visit to Shrewsbury goal, waited upon Mr. Croxon, describing himself as a stranger in Oswestry and having related the refusal of the person who purchased his horse to pay the money, requested Mr. Croxon, as a matter of security, to order the money to be paid to himself until sufficient time was given the seller to establish the respectability and honesty of his character. Mr. Croxon approving very much of the stranger's proposal, received the money. The thief, congratulating himself on the success of his manœuvre returned to the inn when he found that an accomplice, who was with

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him at the fair, had sold his saddle, worth about four guineas, for sixteen shillings. This person he also summoned before the mayor, but fearing that some discovery might be made, he secretly withdrew himself, and had scarcely left the room before he heard Mr. Croxon giving orders to secure both persons. On hearing this, Cranberry stopped short and stood erect against the wall of a dark passage which led to the street. By this means he avoided the constables who rushed into the street, into which he soon followed them. The night was by this time a little advanced and he deemed it proper to leave Oswestry without delay. Sometime afterwards he was heard to be at Glantanat-issa, Llangedwyn, where a couple of constables thought to apprehend him. They proceeded to his bedroom in the dark and laid hold of his shirt, when he sprang from them and escaped through a hole in the floor of the room naked, and absconded. He continued stealing, but in 1815 was caught, convicted and executed at Shrewsbury, when only twenty-six years of age.

Another Mr. John Croxon, son of the mayor of 1801,was the first mayor(1836) after the passing of the Municipal Corporations Act. He presented the Corporation with a Scotch Mull, upon the stand of which is inscribed :—" This stand is made of an Oriental plane, brought when a plant from France by Mary, Queen of Scots, and planted by her in the garden of Holyrood House, A.D. 1561. Blown down A.D. 1817."

The last of the family that lived here was Mr. Richard Jones Croxon, son of the mayor of 1801 and born in 1804. He was brought up to the law, appointed town clerk in 1832, and died in 1875. Shortly afterwards the property was disposed of to Mr. Owen Owen, M.A., of the Willow Street Academy, who opened the house as a High School for boys, and continued here until his appointment as chief inspector of intermediate schools in Wales, when, for convenience, he removed to Barry. He was made a justice of the peace for the borough in 1893, and retiring as inspector in 1913, took up his residence at Colwyn Bay, where he died in March, 1920.

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Mr. Croxon carried on his business, as solicitor, in a building adjoining The Lawn, but which belonged to No. 39. He was succeeded by Mr. Stephen Donne (grandson of Rev. James Donne, D.D.), whose grandmother was a Miss Croxon. Mr. Donne. who married, secondly, Mary Augusta, daughter of the late Captain Payne of Pentreucha, died in 1902.

No. 33 (Dr. Crofton). It is believed that a water corn-mill once stood upon the site of this house, the pond being at the rear of Lloyd's Bank premises. In documents found amongst the Edwards (Oldport) MS. the street is referred to as " Church Street als street y felyn " (1631), " a certain streete within the Towne of Oswestrie called Church Streete otherwyse Streete y Velin " (1659), and " a certayne streete there called Streete y llan alias Streete y melyn without the walls of ye said towne " (1665). There is no record when this house was erected, but it has evidently undergone some improvements, for the surgery formerly stood in the yard next to The Lawn. The first surgeon to occupy the premises was Dr. Robert Cartwright, son of Mr. Richard Cartwright, governor of Shrewsbury Gaol, whose father was the Rev. Robert Cartwright, vicar of Wroxeter. Mr. Robert Cartwright when a young man practised at Aberystwyth, and the Rev. J. R. Lloyd of Aston, taking his family there for a change of air, had them attended to by Dr. Cartwright, and they liked him so much that they invited him to come to practise in Oswestry, and which he did in 1793. In 1799 he married Miss Margaret Peploe of Hisland (who died in 1807), was mayor in 1806, and appointed surgeon to the Oswestry Incorporation in the same year. He died an alderman of the borough in 1822. His son, Mr. Peploe Cartwright, had then just qualified, and in the *Oswestry Herald* of August 13th that year, appeared an announcement that the business would in future be carried on by Mr. (Peploe) Cartwright and Mr. (Robert) Blaikie (grandfather of Dr. Babbington Blaikie of Rhyddallt), who had acted as an assistant to Dr. Robert Cartwright. Dr. Blaikie died in 1824 at the

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age of forty-four, leaving a son Robert. Dr. Peploe Cartwright resided in the house, and in 1842 married Harriett, daughter of Mr. Benjamin Churchill, surveyor to the Post Office, and who then lived at The Mount. He sat in the council for many years, was mayor in 1829, and shortly afterwards elected an alderman and died in 1865 at the age of sixty-five. His widow died at Leamington in 1906 aged eighty-nine years and was interred in the family vault at St. Oswald's. Alderman Cartwright was an exceedingly active man in local affairs, especially in market improvements, in recognition of which a handsome testimonial in the shape of a service of plate was presented to him at a gathering on 26th December, 1850. In an appreciation which appeared in the *Oswestry Advertizer* after his death, a writer says " The grave never closed on a man who had the interests of the town more deeply at heart."

The premises were afterwards let upon lease to Mr. Edward Oswell, solicitor, who occupied them until his removal to The Derwen, when Dr. Robert Blaikie, who at the time resided at No. 32, came into occupation, and stayed to within a short time of his death, which took place in 1901. After the death of Dr. Peploe Cartwright in 1865, the business was carried on for a short time by Dr. Blaikie alone, then he was joined by Dr. Beresford, and about 1880 by Dr. John Peploe Cartwright, son of his late partner, the firm being Blaikie, Beresford & Cartwright. Before returning to his native town Dr. J. P. Cartwright was in practice at Lymm, Cheshire, where he married Miss Draper of that place, one of the children by such marriage being Dr. Robert Peploe Cartwright, now a member of the firm and residing at Brook Street House. Mrs. Cartwright died in 1893 and Mr. Cartwright married, secondly, Miss Sands of Cheshire, who was for some time in the Cottage Hospital here. He died in 1919, aged seventy years. Dr. Babbington Blaikie was occupier in 1909.

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ENGLISH WALLS.

Adjoining the side of the surgery is a passage leading to the English Walls. Proceeding along this we come straight to the Smithfield, from which point, up to 1883, was a narrow roadway known as " Love Lane," leading into Roft Street. In the year named, an offer was received from Mr. Ferrers Croxon to give land for the purpose of making this passage wider, the result being Smithfield Street as we have it to-day.

The Smithfield, opened 4th July, 1849, stands upon a field known as Cae Tomley (owner 1795 Mr. George Withers and occupier Rev. John Jeffreys), the area of which was about two-and-a-half acres and purchased by the Corporation from Mr. George Withers Edwards at a cost of £1050.

The borough markets were protected as far back as 1262, for the Grant of that year provided that if any person living in the town and not having the freedom of the borough, buy merchandise in the suburbs before it was brought to the accustomed place in the town for selling and buying such things, if such persons be taken " they shall be carried by our officers to the prison to be provided according to the discretion of our Bayliffs of our said Town." Upon the death of the third John Fitzalan ten years afterwards (1272), an inventory (Ch. Inq. Post Mortem 56 H. III) was taken in which it is stated that the tenants of the Welsh part of Oswestry, near Treflach had to provide 40 marks per annum to supply the drink (" poturam") to the sergeants of the peace just mentioned, the profits of the the gaol (or prison) amounted to 9s. 4d. and the tolls of the borough to £27 11s. 11½d.

The charter of 1407 granted that the burgesses should thenceforth be free of all burgage, stallage, lastage etc. tolls in the town and liberties. It also provided that none of the inhabitants of the lordships of Oswestry, Melverley, Kinnerley, Edgerley and Ruyton-eleven-towns, should take any cattle, corn victuals or other articles to any foreign fair or market until the same had been first exposed for sale

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in the town of Oswestry, under a penalty of 6s. 8d. And also that a penalty of 6s. 8d. should be imposed for selling Shrewsbury ale in the town, half of such fine to go to the burgesses and half to the lord.

The first fair in Oswestry was established in the Saxon times, and took place annually on the 5th August, the festival or wakes of Oswald the patron saint. Upon that occasion the people made merry during the vigil or eve, but on the following day, when so many had gathered together there arose such a great demand for necessaries that tradesmen made a display of their goods and wares even in the churchyards, and considerable business was done. The next, called St. Andrew's fair, was granted by Henry III in 1227, and held upon the eve, the day, and the day after St. Andrew's Feast. The third fair was granted by Edward III in 1331 and held upon the first and second days of May.

According to the " Parliamentary Survey of the Town, Manor, and Lordship of Oswestry, late belonging to William, Lord Craven," and made in March, 1652, by virtue of a commission granted by the parliament, temp. Oliver Cromwell, it appears that Lord Craven, whose estates were forfeited on account of his taking part with the king, was possessed of the profits of three fairs, yearly kept in Oswestry, in the months of May, August and November, and of two markets held on every Monday and Friday, and the tolls, booths, stallage, piccage, and courts of pie-powder to the said fairs and markets belonging, which were worth to the lord £40 per year.

" Piccage " was money paid for the breaking of the grounds for fixing up booths or stalls, and " pie-powder " (or pie powdre or poudere) was an ancient court of one days duration, held upon a fair or market day, to administer justice in all commercial injuries done in that particular fair or market, and not in any preceding, justice in such court being done as speedily " as dust can fall from the foot."

To the three fairs just noted, another, St. David's, was added under the charter of 1673," to be given

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yearly, on the second of March and to continue three days, changing their weekly market from Monday to Wednesday." On the 27th April, 1674 it was ordered " That the market shall be placed and kept during the time of the next fair, being the first of May, as followeth :—The Beast market for oxen and cows will be kept in Church Street, and also the Horse Market in Willow Street without the gate and the Swine market on the Hill or void space where the castle is."—(*Borough Records.*)

According to the transactions, in 1309, of one John de Merton, the king's itinerant bailiff in the Marches of North Wales, entered in the *Ministers' Accounts*, preserved at the Public Record Office, London, and of which a literal translation appears in *Bye Gones*, this town must have been the *Cheapside* of North Wales at an early age. The following are among the items in John's account :—And of £10 received for 41 head (of cattle), comprising of oxen, bulls, cows, steer, heifers and calves, which belonged to Griffith, late Bishop of Bangor, deceased, and (were) in the custody of Gronou ap Iorwerth late bailiff (prœpositus) of the said Bishop at Comorogh in Powys. And they were appraised at £6 1s. 6d. as is shown by the particulars (now wanting) giving the price per head of each, and sold in gross for £10.

Total £10.,

The same (John) accounts for the wages of two horsemen and of six footmen, hired for the safe conduct of the aforesaid bailiff through the land of Powys, to wit, from Comorogh to Saghard, with the above mentioned cattle, for two days ; each horseman taking 8d. a day, and each footman 2d. a day—4s. 8d.

And in oats (in sheaf) and hay bought for the said cattle, and the hiring of two folds for the said two days 4s—so much, because there was no herbage at this time.

And in the expense of four men keeping the aforesaid cattle at Saghard for two days whilst they were appraised, each one receiving 2d. a day—16d.

And in oats (in sheaf), hay and fodder bought,

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and the hiring of folds for the same during the said two days—4s.

And in the expenses of 6 footmen, keeping and driving the said cattle from Saghard to the Fair of Oswaldestre on the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, in the third year (of Edward II 1309) for two days, each one taking 2d. a day as above—2s.

And in oats (in sheaf), hay and fodder bought for the same cattle, and the hiring of folds for the same in the said fair as above, during the aforesaid two days, —4s.

And in the wages of a certain merchant (auctioneer ?) assisting in the selling of the said cattle in the same fair, for two days, taking 6d. a day—12d. Total expenses 21s.

Later, Gough, in his *History of Myddle*, states that Oswestry market was a favourite resort for the English butchers who required fat stock. It is related that Myddle was usually the way of Newport butchers " to goe to Oswestree Fayre and there to buy fatt cattell and to come the same day backe to Myddle and soe ly att the inne all night." The following incident is also recorded by him :—" There was one Jenks that kept an inne in Myddle. It happened one daye as these butchers came with theire cattell to the inne, when John Owen (a Middle ne'er do well) was drinking here, and hee went oute to see the cattell putt into the back side, and among the rest there was a delicate pied heifer, which was exceedingly fatt. John Owen came in with the butchers and sate drinkinge until they were gone to bed, and in the night this John Owen and one of Jenks' sonnes went and caught the heifer and thrust a wyre into her throat, soe that shee bledde inwardly. In the morning when the butchers arose they found John Owen sittinge in the corner att the inne, where they left him. One of the butchers went out to see the cattell and came in and told them that the pyed heifer was dead, and they all concluded that being soe very fatt, she had been over driven (from Oswestry) and soe dyed. They all went to see her and Owen went with them, and told them he

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thought that poore people would be glad of the meate and therefore hee would buye her, hide and all, which accordingly hee did for a little money, and when they were gone, hee drest her, and hee and the Innkeeper had a great deale of good beife."

Thomas Churchyard of Shrewsbury, a poet-traveller, who passed this way during Elizabeth's reign, thus praised the markets :—

" Ozestry, a pretie town full fine,
Which may be loved, be likte, and praysed both,
It stands so trim, and is maintayned so cleane,
And peepled is, with folke that well do meane ;
That it deserves to be enrouled and shrynd
In each good breast, and every manly mynd.
The market there, so fare, exceeds withall,
As no one towne comes neare it in some sort,
For looke, whayt may be wisht or had at call,
It is there found, as market men report.
For poultrie, foule, of every kind somewhat,
No place can shew so much more cheap than that ;
All kinds of cates (delicacies) that countrie can afford
For money, there is bought with one bare word.
They hacke not long about the thing they sell,
For price is knowne of each thing that is bought ;
Poor folke, God wot, in towne no longer dwell,
Then money had—perhaps a thing of nought :
So trudge they home, both bare-legge and unshod,
With song in Welsh, or else in praysing God."

During the eighteenth century the Corporation arranged for two additional fairs, the " Midsummer " (Wednesday before Midsummer Day), and the " Michaelmas " (Friday before Michaelmas Day).

At a meeting of the Corporation and burgesses held on 7th November, 1815, it was resolved " That a new fair be held in the said town on the third Wednesday in January in every year instead of the great market usually held after Christmas, and that notice thereof be inserted in the Shrewsbury, Chester and Birmingham papers, and that handbills be printed and dispersed, stating that the pig and sheep fair be held on the day preceding the said third Wednesday in every year, in the usual places, viz :—Cattle and pigs on the Bailey Head and Sheep in Church Street."

Later, private pens were fixed in the street near

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the Coach & Dogs Inn for cattle, sheep and pigs, the horses being offered in Willow Street.

In 1828 the published dates (some of the original being changed through the adoption of the Gregorian calendar) for holding of fairs, were

Third Wednesday in January.
March 15.
May 12.
Wednesday before Midsummer day.
August 15.
Friday before Michaelmas-day and
December 10.

In 1845 fairs were fixed for the first Wednesday in every month, which continued until 1863 when cattle fairs began to be held fortnightly, and in 1872 the Council decided that fairs should be held weekly as from October 2nd of that year.

The practice of offering live stock for sale in the open streets not only caused obstruction, but was highly dangerous to the public. It was not until the 24th May, 1838, that the Town Council met to consider this and the other markets, in earnest. At that meeting it was suggested that the ground at the back of the Town Hall (now Powis Hall) should be enclosed and that one and a half acres of the Castle field (it was then open ground), which was about coming into the market, should be purchased to add to it, so as to form a square in which all stock fairs should be held (*Bye Gones*) but, as before stated, a more central position was afterwards found in the site of the present Smithfield.

The water from Cae glas, passing through the grounds of No. 33, Church Street, was for centuries an open stream alongside what is now the fence wall of Smithfield in the English Walls. It was covered in about eighty years ago, and a side path constructed over it, while in the then fence was such a row of trees as is rare in any town. It was under these and along the " Lover's Lane " to Roft Street and back that the good folk of that period took their daily exercise, but

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the trees being in the way of the projected Smithfield, they had to be cut down.

The boundary of the Smithfield, until 1880, terminated near the second entrance, for adjoining it was a house and workshop in the occupaton of Mr. Joseph Jones, machinist, these were then demolished and the site taken for the enlargement of the Smithfield.

A little lower down but upon the other side, was a large warehouse, occupied in the beginning of last century by Messrs. Croxon & Lucas, in connection with their drapery establishment situate in Cross Street, and later (1828) as a flannel warehouse, by Messrs. Croxon & Evans. Mr. Griffith Evans lived at No. 7, Salop Road, and was mayor in 1839. After Mr. Evans' death Mr. John Minshall, ironmonger, became the occupier, until 1865, when it was purchased by Messrs. Dorsett Owen & Co., brewers, who erected the present buildings.

Next comes the old Baptist Chapel, or Meeting House as it was often called. The first building upon this site was erected in 1806, the land being given by Mr. John Roberts, chandler, the first prayer offered therein was by Mr. Stennett (a well known name in connection with this church), and the first baptism in 1807. The building was enlarged in 1818, and again in 1867, and services continued therein until the opening of the new buildings erected in Salop Road in March, 1892.

In an enclosure at the back of the old chapel is a stone marking the grave of Mr. John Roberts, one of the deacons, who died 31st July, 1826, and also a slab covering the graves of two children of Mr. Benjamin Roberts (Morda) son of the above.

In 1840, the only dwelling between this point and Church Street, were the cottages Nos. 1—4, and which then belonged to Mr. Peter Roberts.

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CHURCH STREET—*continued.*

Returning to Church Street. No. 31 (Mr. H. E. Richards) which in 1843 belonged to Mr. George Salter, was for many years in the occupation of Mr. Jackson Salter, printer and stationer. Mr. Salter, born in Ireland, was the son of Mr. Richard Salter (fourth son of Mr. Jackson Salter of Llwyd's mansion) an officer in a Fencible regiment in Ireland and afterwards a captain in the Shropshire Militia. Mr. Salter married, in 1838, Anne danghter of Mr. William Edwards of Bailey Street, printer, and for about twenty years carried on the business of printer and stationer at this place, but his printing works were in Lower Brook Street. He was mayor in 1867, and two years afterwards retired from business, but continued to reside at No. 29 adjoining, where he died in 1886 at the age of eighty-six.

Mr. Salter was succeeded by Mr. H. H. Lewis, but he only remained a short time, and was followed by Mr. Henry Rice, who in February, 1873 started a monthly illustrated journal. After him came Mrs. Reason, who opened the shop as a fancy repository, continuing until 1885 when she retired in favour of the Misses Cooke and Cheshire from Leg Street. The house belonging was occupied by Messrs. E. Wharton Jones & Co., stay makers, and Mr. Edward Jones, solicitor, who died in 1909, aged eighty-four years.

No. 29 (Harris). This, up to about sixty or seventy years ago, comprised two dwellings that belonged to Mr. Peter Roberts, who occupied the one portion and Mrs. Maria Gough (in 1812) the other. Afterwards came Mr. Jackson Salter, who occupied the whole up to the time of his death in 1886, when it was converted into a shop for the Misses F. & E. Redrobe, milliners, who were succeeded in the same business by Mrs. Fisk.

Here finished the eastern side of Church Street, and we come to where stood the first of the four arched entrances into the town and the wall that surrounded it. The wall, about a mile in circumference, was

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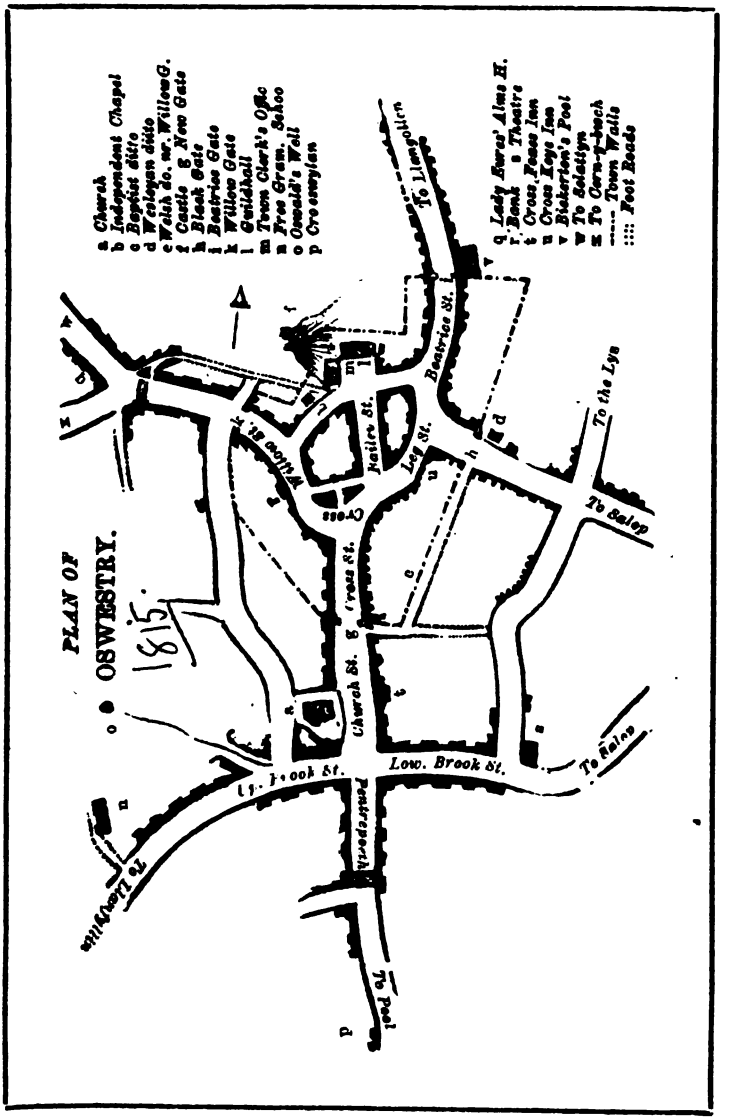

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ordered to be erected by King Edward I, in the sixth year of his reign, he being anxious to secure Oswestry as a key to his intended conquest of Wales, and to render the town less liable to the plundering incursions of the Welsh. The work, believed to have occupied six years, was under the superintendence of the king's celebrated architect, Henry de Elreton, who built the castles of Conway and Carnarvon. Upon the plan drawn for Price's *History of Oswestry* in 1815, the line of the wall is clearly shown. Starting from this spot (where stood New gate) and proceeding along the passage at the side of Messrs. Cartwright and Blaikie's surgery, to the Tankard Inn, thence along the left side of English Walls to the Bear Inn, where there is a second entrance, called Black gate, thence a short distance down Coney Green lane to opposite Presbyterian Chapel, thence to top of King Street, where stood another entrance called Beatrice Gate, thence to the Welsh Baptist Chapel, along the back of Powis Place to the Fire Engine House in the Horse Market, where the Castle Bank became a sufficient stronghold. Then commencing from the other side of the Castle Bank the course went almost straight for the Castle Street Printing Works to the junction of Castle Street and Willow Street, where came the fourth entrance called Willow Gate. Thence along the left side of Welsh Walls to about Cae glas cottage (opposite Cottage Hospital), taking a turn there and making straight for the Post Office yard and to the point we started from in Church Street.

The first two gates to be erected were the Wallia or Willow Gate and Black Gate, the other two—New Gate and Beatrice Gate being built later. "There be no towers on the waulles beside the gates." (*Leyland.*)

When the wall was completed King Edward ordered that a murage or toll be exacted at each of the openings to provide a fund for its reparation. The following is a transcription of the document :—

"Of the Murage of Oswaldestre. The King to the Bailiffs and Burgesses, and the other good men of Oswaldestre greeting.

Know ye that we have granted in aid of enclosing our town of Oswaldestre, that from the feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, in the

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twelfth year of our reign to the end of twenty years thence ensuing, ye may take in the same Town, to the reparation of the Walls of the same Towne, of every horse-load of corn to be sold, one halfpenny ; of every horse and mare, ox and cow sold, one halfpenny ; of every hide of horse and mare, ox and cow, fresh, salt or tanned, one farthing ; of every cart bringing salted flesh to sell, two pence ; of five bacons sold, one halfpenny ; of a salmon fresh sold, one halfpenny ; of ten sheep, goats or pigs sold, one penny ; of ten fleeces of wool, one penny ; of one hundred skins of sheep, goats, stags, hind bucks and does, one penny ; of every hundred skins of lambs, kids, hares, rabbits, foxes, cats and squirrels, one halfpenny ; of every cart of salt to sell, one penny ; of every horse-load of salt to sell by the week, one farthing ; of every horse-load of cloth to sell, one penny ; of every entire cloth to sell in the town of Gloucester, one penny ; of every cloth of silk brocaded and diapered with gold, one penny ; of every cloth of silk without gold and chef de cendall, one halfpenny ; of every dole of wine to sell, two pence ; of every horse-load of honey to sell, one penny ; of every dole of honey to sell, four pence ; of every sack of wool to sell, four pence ; of every truss of cloth to sell brought by cart, four pence ; of every horse-load of cloth to sell, or other diverse and small things coming to be sold in the same town, one halfpenny ; of every cart of iron to sell, one penny ; of every horse-load of iron to sell, one halfpenny ; of every carriage of lead to sell, two pence ; of tallow and lard to sell, one farthing ; of every hundred of alum and copperas to sell, one halfpenny ; of two thousand onions, a farthing ; of every thousand of herrings to sell, one halfpenny ; of every hundred of boards to sell, one halfpenny ; of every mill sold one penny ; of every thousand of laths sold, one penny ; of every new cart sold, one halfpenny ; of every hundred of faggots to sell, one halfpenny ; of every quarter of salt, one farthing ; of every twelve horse-loads of coal sold, one halfpenny ; of every thousand of all manner of nails to sell, except cart nails, one farthing ; of a thousand of cart nails to sell, one halfpenny ; of every hundred of horse shoes and clouts to carts to sell, one halfpenny ; for every truss of any sort of merchandise coming for sale to the aforesaid town, of the value of two shillings, one farthing ; of every cauldron sold to brew, one penny ; of every quarter of oatmeal to sell, one halfpenny ; And we therefore command that ye take the said custom to the end of the term aforesaid, but the term of the said twenty years being compleat, the said custom ceases and is done away.

In witness, &c."

Until 1406 the lord's Welsh tenants were required by their tenure to keep watch and ward for three days and three nights at the four gates of the town, during the fairs of St. Andrew and St. Oswald, with a certain number of men called *Kaies*, but these treacherously

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with others, ravaged and plundered the place. Owing to this misconduct the tenants were compelled to pay a sum of money as wages to a sufficient number of Englishmen as the burgesses should think convenient for the custody of the four gates, and the Welshmen were for ever to be discharged from that duty. (Edwards' *History*.)

Outside the wall was a ditch or moat, into which, in times of danger, the streams from the western side were diverted, to form a further defence, the water by the gates being crossed by a bridge that could be drawn. These bridges were repairable by the lord of the manor, for in his account for the year 1687 is an entry :—" Pd Edward Morris for mending ye bridge at New Gate, 00 06 11."

In the Parliamentary Survey of 1652, before referred to, the foregoing were brought in as " all that stone wall encompassing the towne of Oswestrie aforesaid, being about a mile in extent, and all those four gate-houses erected upon ye entrances into ye said towne, and all that ditch adjoining ye said wall. Note. The said gate houses may with small charge be made more commodious. But in case ye said wall and gate houses should be demolished (as it is fit they should, most part thereof being much decayed), then ye materials thereof, being stone only, are worth upon ye place £100, and ye land on which they stand 100s per year."

The wall, much damaged during the siege of 1644, was left to get into a ruinous condition, and must have been completely demolished soon after the survey of 1652-3, for there is no subsequent reference to it, or a vestge left above ground, but during some excavations for building purposes in a garden adjoining Welsh Walls, some years ago, a portion composed of huge blocks of sandstone, with mortar which had become as hard as the stone, about six feet thick and four feet in height, was unearthed, and in 1865, while excavating for the sewage drain, near the post office here, the workmen came across some steps at a depth of ten feet below street level, and at a depth of four-

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teen feet to some mud that probably formed the bed of the old moat, and afterwards when some digging was being carried out in front of Mr. Bradley's premises a block of solid masonry was exposed to view, and which it is believed formed part of the foundation of New Gate.

Upon the expiration of the term stipulated in the Letters Patent, the lord of the Manor made further orders from time to time, and in 1673 a Table of Tolls " usually payd at the gate of this towne by buyers and sellers on faire market and weeke dayes " was engrossed on parchment, and copies placed within view of the gates, and in 1792 Feb. 6th, Edward Jones was paid 7s. 6d. " for copying a Table of Tolls payable at the New Gate." (Old Account.) From these tolls, however, the inhabitants of the following townships were exempt on paying four pence a year (one penny for each fair then held) and were therefore denominated groat burgesses, viz. :—

Treflach	Trefarclawdd	Trefonen
Bryn	Pentregaer	Sweeney.
Blodwel	Llanforda	Sychtyn
Crickheath	Maesbury	Selattyn and
Morton	Llynclys	Cynynion.

In addition to paying the four pence, keepers of teams were usually called upon to haul stones and other materials for repairs to the gates, etc. If any one refused to pay, the person collecting would take the bridle of the horse, or some other article, and keep it until the toll was paid.

Sometimes the toll was paid in kind, for in the lord's rental for 1749, is the following entry :— " Nov. 1. Expenses for six men gathering the toll at Oswestry in kind, and agreed that day with them at nine pence p. week for each to gather the same, 0. 10. 4."

The letting of the tolls of New Gate in 1770 was to Thomas Gittins, at £17 per annum, and in 1797 to John Jones at £14.

As before stated, the arched inlet here was called New Gate, and was built in the reign of Edward II.

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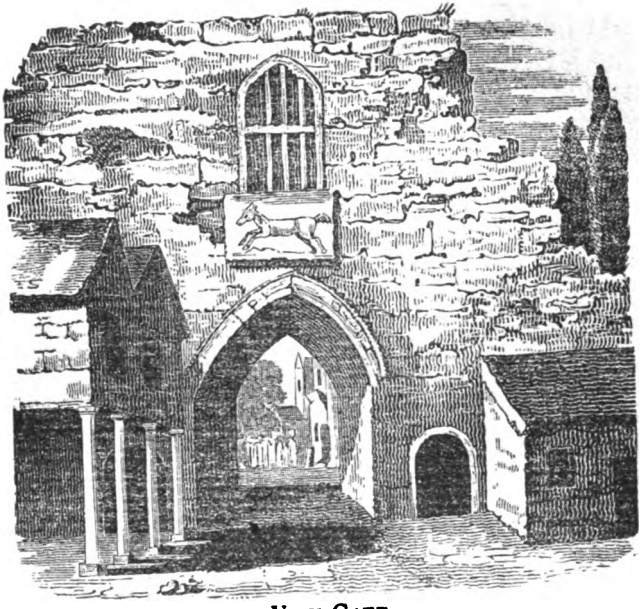
Upon the arch was an inscription recorded in Dugdale's *Visitation of Salop*, thus:—"27 Augt. 1663. Oswestrie. On ye S. Gate of this Towne is cut in stone a White Horse with an Oaken branch in his



NEW GATE.

mouth, and on his head AN'D'MI 1570." John Davies, in his *Observations* after making the like reference, says—"The Oaken boughe was antiently the armes of the Towne of Oswestry, for upon their oulde comn-seale of brasse (called the towne seale) I find depicted a Kinge (in all likelihood King Oswald) sittinge on a chaire, houldinge a sword in his right hand, and in his left hand an Oaken bough." The origin he refers to as "a vulgar tradicion heere current amongst us of twoe noble Twynnes who to try the right of primogeniture agreed to run a race on horseback to a c'rtaine oake appointed to be the goale. The one beinge mounted on a white steede which cominge swift to the oake pluck't a boughe thereof and held it in his mouth and therefore hee took the horse soe houldinge the boughe to be his crest in token of his victoree."

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Over the gate were two rooms, one being a guard room for soldiers and the other was named Lloft y Tir, the latter probably being used for the reception of tolls or tithes when paid in kind. Later, one of the rooms was converted into a common gaol, there being records in the Corporation books of prisoners being confined here, and, among others, of women " led from the Gaol in New Gate " to the Pillory " there to be whipped till their backs be bloody." In 1689 the Earl of Castlemaine (husband of Barbara duchess of Cleveland, the favourite of Charles II) who belonged to the Roman Catholic faction of the Government of James II, whilst upon his way to or from his friends and co-religionists " Pryce the Papists " of Plasucha, Llanfyllin, was arrested by the mayor, and confined in this gaol for a month, before being transferred to the Tower of London. In the Mayor's account for 1689 is the following item, " For cole for the guard and Watch when the Earl of Castlemaine was in custody 0 1 4."

In course of time both the prison and gate became much neglected, and in 1739 a " Committee was asked to view the Gaol and report the condition of the same," and on 15th Jan., 1741, a meeting ordered that " Whereas for want of a proper and convenient place to confine prisoners within this town, divers evil disposed persons, &c., have escaped due punishment, &c., the Gate commonly called the New Gate be put in good and sufficient repair and rendered commodious and safe gaol for the confinement of all prisoners, and that a sum not exceeding 1½d. per £, be assessed and levied on the inhabitants for the purpose."and in 1743 a presentment (indictment) was made at the Quarter Sessions of the want of a Gaol, and a rate ordered to be levied towards the building of one. In the lord's rental account for 1752 are the following charges :—
" March 5. Pd Rich. Wolfe, bailiff of Oswestry his expenses to Pool about the Gate that tumbled down, 0 1 6."
" April 10. Thos. Jones for removing the rubbish of the gate that fell down at Oswestry, taking down the remaining part of the roof that was standing and

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taking care of the timber and stone 1 18 7," and in 1767 " We present (indicte) the Earl of Powis for not raising the arch of the New Gate higher it being too low for carriages and dangerous. If not done in one month fined in Two pounds and two shillings."

In 1771 the following letter from the Mayor and Corporation was submitted to the Earl of Powis, lord of the manor, through his agent Mr. Probert :—

" Several Gentlemen of this Town and neighbourhood have frequently Express'd an united Wish that his Lordship would permit the Gates of the Town (which are all at present in a ruinous condition) to be taken down and the Materials apply'd in the erecting of necessary prisons, in another place, an Alteration that would prove not only very Ornamental to the Town, but very convenient for all sorts of carriages. Should his Lordship be disposed to Oblige the neighbourhood in this Instance, likewise the Body Corporate shall think themselves equally obliged to his Lordship, with the rest of the Gentlemen, for such an additional mark of his condescention and Good Will towards the Town of Oswestry. (signed) John Mytton, Jno. LLoyd, Nathl. Jones, William Griffiths, Richard Jones, Thomas Jones, R. Price, John Edwards, John Basnett, John Gregory, Jas. Williams, Thos. Rathbone, Nathl.Price, Richd. Maurice, John Evans."

What reply was given to the foregoing is not recorded, but it may be inferred from the following letter, written and addressed to the Steward, eleven years afterwards, that the request had by then been conditionally granted.

" Oswestry, 24 Feb. 1782.

Sir,—This Corporation has honoured me by choosing me their Mayor. I, as well as they, are desirous that the favour intended them by Lord Powis in regard to taking down the old Gates shall be no longer slighted accordingly to carry out that plan into Execution and to erect a new prison, have had the present one presented by the Grand Jury, and wish to take down the Gates immediately that the materials may be employed for that purpose. But in the midst of this, the D't of the Deed, which you were so obliging to send us some time ago, for carrying on these matters, is not now to be found. If you have a copy of it, I shall esteem it a favour to let me have one, otherwise please to mention the particulars of what was expected from the Corporation to preserve his Lordship's Rights, and I will take care it shall be complied with—A line giving your consent as soon as possible will be very agreeable, and I trust you will find much gratitude in us all, It is a general Wish that most of the Work may be completed the ensuing summer.

I remain your most obliged and obedient humble servant,

Thos. Vernon.

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The presentment referred to in the foregoing was as follows :—

" The Grand Jury of the said Town having presented the Common Gaol or Gate prison within the said town to be insufficient and inconvenient and so far ruinous and in decay as to endanger the lives of His Majesty's subjects. It is ordered that a convenient prison and House of Correction be erected and built upon the ground where the Wool House now stands or adjoining it."

The Mayor duly carried out his promise made by the letter of Feb. 24th, and before the expiration of his year of office, the following letter was sent to the Steward :—.

" Sir,

Herewith have sent the Articles under the Corporation Seal and hope they will arrive time enough for Execution before his Lordship goes abroad.

I have it in command from the Mayor and Body Corporate to request that Mr. Probert will be pleased to present their most respectful acknowledgements to his Lordship for the many favours conferred by him and his noble Ancestors on this Corporation and more particularly for his Lordship's most obliging condescention on the present occasion.

I am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

Jno Lloyd

Oswestry, Oct. 4th 1782."

Mr. Probert, to whom the foregoing letters were addressed, was Agent of the Earl of Powis, and resided at Copthorne House, Shrewsbury. He was made a burgess of Oswestry in 1790, mayor in 1791, elected an alderman in 1814 and died in 1825.

The Agreement or Articles referred to in the correspondence, stipulated for the erection of a handsome stone pillar with certain Arms, and the words " Toll Through " engraved thereon, upon each side of the openings to show where the gate had stood. Permission was also granted for the taking of such part of the stone of the gateways as were not required in erecting the pillars referred to, and the making good of the walls adjoining, toward erecting a gaol or prison.

Only one of such pillars was erected at New Gate, which stands to this day between the shops of Messrs. Hartnell (fishmonger) and John Lloyd (butcher).

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The Rent account for Lady-day 1785 contains the following :—" April 21. John Nelson carving Lord Powis' Arms (and the Arms of the Corporation of Oswestry) on Pillars set up at the Toll Gates there £13 2 0."

From this point commenced the Cross Street of years ago, and which in some ancient documents is referred to as " Crosse Streete otherwyse Midle Streete " (i.e. the street between Church Street and Leg Street). It took in the whole of the Cross and finished with what is now Messrs. Aston's premises (No. 16) but Church Street, in our day, reaches to the Cross.

No. 27 (Mr. Hartnell). This was a private house in 1845 and belonged to Mr. Peter Roberts. Shortly after that date it was taken by Dr. Blaikie, until his removal in 1854 to No. 32. In that same year it was converted into a shop for Messrs. Warburton & Co., tailors, and Miss Warburton opened a school therein for young ladies in 1855. In the following year Mr. Edward Downes, from the establishment of Mr. Watkin Jones, commenced in the grocery business, which was continued by him up to the time of his death in 1881.

No. 25 (Lloyd), was for more than a generation occupied by Mr. John Jones, butcher, who died in 1882.

White Horse Hotel. This house was refronted in 1872. Before then it was a low erection of an aged appearance, but the sign—representing a white horse with one leg pawing the air, was carefully preserved and refixed in the new front. It will be noticed that the figure is now minus its near front leg. It appears that during the noted election of 1832, following the passing of the Reform Bill, the rejoicings of the Tory party in this town took rather a rough turn, and although about twenty-five special constables at a cost of 10/6 each were sworn on the occasion, there was something like a riot, and some of the most violent politicians relieved their feelings by smashing the windows of the Liberals. One of these, Mr. Samuel Roberts (father of Mr. J. Askew Roberts) bookseller, who

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lived in the Cross where now stands the shop of Messrs. Edward Thomas & Co., ironmongers, found a curiously carved stone in his drawing room over the shop, which had been flung through the window. There was much inquiry what it could be, when the discovery was made that it had formed the knee joint of the figure upon the White Horse Hotel.—*Bye-Gones.*

In 1724 the owner was Thomas Vernon and the occupier Mrs. Sarah Edwards, followed in 1759 by Thomas Danks and Peter Edwards. Mr. Edwards died in 1786, and his successor was Richard Coleman, an officer of excise, who in 1784 married the daughter of the house—" Margaret Edwards, spinster," About 1786, Mr. Coleman became sub-tenant of some land that had been let to William Howell, a butcher, by Thomas Phipps of Llwynymapsis, (son of Mr. Vincent Phipps of Bailey Street, grocer, freeman 1734, church-warden 1741 and mayor 1748), a solicitor, and having mowed the ground and removed the crop therefrom, was told by Phipps that he had stolen the hay instead of stacking the same upon the ground, which " language produced some hard words on both sides, and a quarrel had subsisted between them."

About the end of 1788, Phipps caused a writ to be served upon Coleman, who instructed a Mr. Walter Williams (an attorney at Oswestry) to enter an appearance to it. Some time afterwards Phipps told William Howell that he would drop the action, but would bring another against Coleman for assaulting his son (Phipps junior). Coleman's lawyer upon this caused a " non pros " to be signed in the action, the costs of which amounted to two pounds three shillings, whereupon Phipps senior and Phipps junior and William Thomas their clerk (in June 1789) swore an affidavit to the effect that Coleman had signed a note on the 7th of March previous for £20 (in the presence of Phipps junior and William Thomas) which sum was said to be in satisfaction of the trespass in carrying the hay off the land. Attached to the affidavit was the note of March 7th, and also a Warrant of attorney, said to be also signed by Coleman (in the presence of

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Phipps junior, and William Thomas) on the 15th day of April, 1789, wherein he is said to " confess judgement against him in the action." The affidavit, with the documents attached, were lodged in the Court of Exchequer, whereupon the Court " granted a rule to show cause why the 'non pros' should not be set aside." Coleman, however, insisted that both the note and warrant of attorney were forgeries, William Thomas was charged on July 6th, 1789, before Mr. Lewis Jones, the then mayor of Oswestry, when he confessed that he had not seen Coleman sign either the note or the warrant of attorney. Thereupon, the two Phipps' were apprehended " in the cellar of their own house (Llwynymapsis), armed with a brace of pistols properly loaded. The son immediately escaped, but was retaken in Cardiganshire (60 miles away) ten days afterwards, and brought to Oswestry." The three were duly tried at the Shropshire Assizes in July, 1789 upon the charge of " uttering and forging " a note of hand for £20 purporting to be the note of Richard Coleman. Thomas was acquitted, but the Phipps' (father 46 and son 20) were convicted, and on the 5th September following were executed at Old Heath, near Shrewsbury. The bodies of such persons were usually buried in St. Mary's Churchyard, Shrewsbury, but the name of Phipps does not appear in the registers. In a letter to the *Advertizer* of July, 1915, the writer, " J.M." says :—" I understand that the bodies of the Oswestry lawyers hung for forgery were buried at Morton, in the far right hand corner and I went as a girl to see the grave. It bore no name but " T.P." was on the stone. The bodies were brought by night on horseback, in the dress they usually wore." It is however rather doubtful they received any burial, for it is recorded in the *Mont. Collections*, that " Dr. Milward E. Dovaston of Llanymynech (about 1825) had suspended from the ceiling of his surgery a human skeleton, said to be that of Phipps who was executed at Shrewsbury."

Shortly after the trial Coleman gave up the inn and left the town.

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In 1803 the premises were offered for sale by auction, the particulars stating that the occupier was John Edwards (probably a brother of Mrs. Coleman), pumpman, who held at a rent of £30 per annum. Subsequent occupiers were Messrs. Edward Jones (1828), (Mrs.) Eleanor Jones his widow (1845), John Jones (1852), Richard Edwards, Charles Bennion (1867), Alex. H. Elliott (1868), George Ferrington (1872) and Pryce Jones (1880).

Between the hotel and the Fox Inn there was formerly a small shop, approached by three steps, the occupier of which in 1852 was Mr. George Weston, druggist, and the last, previous to its demolition in 1872, when it was taken to enlarge the hotel, was Miss Leake, green-grocer.

THE FOX INN.

No. 21, Fox Inn. A picturesque half-timbered building, with low ceilings, narrow passages, cosy corners, doors of cleft oak, and a projecting gable that reached nearly across the side path. This gable was very low, and one day, about fifty years ago, a traveller on his way from the Wynnstay Hotel, not observing the projection, struck up against it and smashed his new silk hat. This led to a severe remonstrance and threat of the law, whereupon Mr. Richard Bill Smale,

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the then owner, instantly went to one of the builders and ordered the cutting down of the offending prominence, which was forthwith done, the result being the spoiling of one of the most precious relics of the olden time that we possess. From the marks now upon the gable of No. 19 adjoining, it may be inferred that the roof was at one time of straw and of a much sharper pitch. The earliest mention of the place is in 1687 when Edward Jeffreys was tenant. In 1707 Edward Maurice, gent, paid chief rent for the house called "The ffoxe," subsequent occupiers being Charles Lloyd (1720), Mrs. Elizabeth Lloyd (1751), Samuel Wilkinson (1756) and Henry Lloyd (1762). In a deed dated 1779 is recorded the sale by Hesba Heatley, spinster, to Elizabeth Carfoot, of a "seat in the gallery of the parish church over the south door," and another situated on the ground floor near the Warden's pew, that were attached to this house, for the sum of £11 3 0.

In 1841 the premises came into the possession of Mr. William Smale of No. 1, Church Street, by purchase from the owner Phœbe Davies. The occupiers since then have been Messrs. Richard Smith (1845), George Jackson (father of the late Mr. William Jackson, solicitor, and who afterwards removed to the Grapes Inn), T. C. Nurse (who left for the Albion Inn), Charles Thomas (from the Welsh Harp Inn) whose occupation at the time of his death in 1890 extended to over forty four years.

At the rear of the house there was formerly a garden with outbuildings extending to the English Walls. The buildings were taken down in 1847 and Smithfield House erected upon the site.

No. 19 (now with No. 17). Judging by what remain of the interior arrangements it may be taken that these premises were at one time of some importance. A stone set in a wall in the rear fixes the date of erection as 1697. About 1810 the front portion was converted into business premises for Mr. Watmough, druggist. He was succeeded in 1822 by Mr. John Davies, draper, who removed here from Willow Street,

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and named the premises "The Golden Ball," that being the sign of a large establishment in Pall Mall, London, where he was for some time assistant. In 1852 Mr. Davies transferred the business to his son, Mr. John Whitridge Davies, who in 1860 was joined by his brother Mr. Abraham Davies, under the style of Davies Brothers. Mr. Abraham Davies died in 1870, after which Mrs. Davies continued until 1886. After a short occupation by Miss Fraser, the premises were added to No. 17. The Davies family were able musicians, and contributed much to the advancement of the art in the town.

Rebecca Lloyd, by her will dated 1733, gave £20 to the poor of the town, but which gift was afterwards altered to £1 per annum, and charged upon these premises by the Will of Rebecca Freeman her executrix. At an inquiry held November, 1898, it was stated that the amount was paid annually by Messrs. John Jones & Son, Ld., and distributed by the Vicar and Churchwardens in 4s. tickets.

No. 17 and 15 belonged to Mr. Joseph Roberts of Chester and were offered for sale by public auction in October, 1852.

No 17 was a house and grocer's shop occupied in 1845 by Mr. Watkin Jones, father of Mr. Thomas Henry Jones, Castle Cottage. After Mr. Jones' death his widow (Mrs. Mary Jones, daughter of Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, solicitor) disposed of the business to an assistant, Mr. Edward Downes, who in 1856 opened at No. 27. In the same year, Mr. Jones, a cabinet maker at No. 20, disposed of his stock, goodwill, &c., to Mr. Edward Jones (son of Mr. Edward Jones of White Horse Hotel), who up to then was in the offices of Messrs. Longueville & Williams, solicitors. Mr. Jones acquired these premises and rebuilt the whole (the ornamental front being designed by Mr. James Blake, Architect) and opened in the furnishing business. In 1864 he was joined by his brother, Mr. John Jones (father of Mr. J. Vincent Jones), under the style of E. & J. Jones. Shortly afterwards the buildings at the rear were enlarged and improved, and

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in 1889, the business was advertised as belonging to Messrs. John Jones & Son. Mr. John Jones died in 1903.

No. 15 (Mr. Hobley). These premises will be remembered as being in the occupation of Mr. William Corney, confectioner and wine merchant. Mr. Corney removed here from the Cross, and in 1839 married Margaret, daughter of Mr. Griffith Morris, builder. Mr. Corney died in 1878, and the premises were in that year opened as a music warehouse by Mr. Alfred Knight. This continued until 1880, when the Misses Sharpe, confectioners, removed here from No. 51. A few years later Miss Sharpe married Mr. J. M. Goulden of Brogyntyn, who afterwards assisted in the business. The front entrance door used to be upon the side adjoining No. 13.

No. 13 (Mr. G. R. Bayley). A chandlery business was established upon these premises in 1798 by Mr. John Roberts (father of the late Mr. Benjamin Roberts, of Morda Mills), his predecessor being Mr. Wm. Phillips, slater. The property at that time formed part of the Wynnstay Estate and was acquired by Mr. Roberts in 1805. He died in 1826 and was buried in ground adjoining the Baptist Chapel at the rear. The business was afterwards continued by his widow, Mrs. Mary Roberts, and her son Mr. Benjamin Roberts, who was here in 1845. About that year the concern was transferred to Mr. Thomas Edwards (son of Mr. David Edwards, currier, Beatrice Street) who retired in 1863, in favour of Mr. Maurice Jones, who removed here from Middleton Road Smithy, and married Mary, daughter of the Rev. Foulk Parry of Oak Street Tannery, and was the father of the late Mr. Sam Parry Jones of Brynhafod. He died in 1870, aged fifty-six, but the business was carried on for some years afterwards by his widow who eventually transferred it to Mr. Thomas Owen of Menai Bridge. Mr. Owen died in 1892 since when the business is conducted at the rear by his son Mr. Ernest Owen, the portion fronting Church Street being occupied by Mr. G. R. Bayley, china dealer and newsagent.

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No. 11 (Mr. Lashmore). This place also formed part of the Wynnstay Estate and changed hands in 1805. Shortly afterwards, the occupier became Mr. Nathaniel Minshall (grandfather of Mr. P. H. Minshall of Beechfield) who removed here from No. 6 The Cross, and carried on the business of a printer and bookseller. Mr. Minshall was at the same time an articled pupil to Mr. T. Longueville Jones, solicitor, and after passing the usual examinations, was admitted a solicitor, and commenced practice here in 1819. His printing business was transferred to Mr. Samuel Roberts, (a brother-in-law) and it may be noted that this was the origin of the printing and publishing business now carried on by Messrs. Woodall, Minshall, Thomas & Co., and a great-grandson of the founder is a member of the present firm.

In 1823 Mr. Minshall took Mr. Charles Sabine into partnership (Minshall & Sabine) which continued until 1830. How long Mr. Minshall occupied has not been ascertained, but Mr. Thomas Gregory, a printer from Wem, and a very zealous local preacher with the Congregationalists, had a jeweller's business here in 1845. In 1855 Mr. Gregory took Mr. Henry Turner into partnership, but this only continued for a few years, when Mr. Gregory retired and returned to Wem, where he died in 1894 at the age of ninety-three. Mr. Gregory's successor was Mr. Edward Lashmore, who died in 1884.

No. 9. The Stone House, up to 1805 also belonged to Sir W. W. Wynn, Bart., being at that time in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Jones, currier. Later, the occupier was Mr. Thomas Rogers (father of Mr. Alfred Rogers of Plasbryn) who carried on the business of a draper upon the front ground floor, and that of a wine and spirit merchant in the basement, the latter being approached down steps from the street sidepath. Mr. Rogers acquired the property in 1824, was elected upon the Town Council in 1835, and mayor in 1845. After a time he relinquished the drapery business, and re-erected the front portion of the block as at present. He died in 1865, and was succeeded by

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his son Mr. William Fletcher Rogers, of Lloran House and High Lea, who married Miss Emily Nicholls of Shrewsbury, was mayor in 1884 and died in 1909.

At the rear of these premises is a spacious malt-house of an early date, the massive and rough main beams and roof framing and uneven handmade bricks in the panels being worthy of inspection as shewing the firm class of work executed centuries ago. In 1805 it was held by Mrs. Susan Edwards, maltster, but is now used in connection with the business of Messrs. Brown & Sons, Ld., Adjoining was a rope factory that in 1805 was worked by Mr. John Phillips, when the one side of the English Walls was used as a rope-walk.

No. 7. With the exception of the ground floor frontage, these narrow premises, which are gable-wise to the street, retain their original shape. Mr. Archibald Corken, clock and watchmaker, occupied in 1852, and was succeeded by Mr. Henry Giles, a native of Shrewsbury and father of Mr. H. R. Giles, solicitor, Ellesmere. After Mr. Giles' death in 1883 the place was taken into the Stone House premises.

No. 5 (Boots, Ld.), has been wholly transformed. Previously it was a plain building, called Waterloo House, with a residence in the rear. The occupants, principally drapers, are as follows :—Messrs. John Bradshaw (1840), William Morris Davies (1845), who died in 1858, David Williams who died in 1870, Edward Jones (1870), Davies & Edwards, who in 1883 left for No. 1, The Cross, Henry Syars, (tobacconist and hair-dresser), Evan Jones (1886), draper, from No. 13 The Cross, who in 1887 was joined by William Morris (son of Mr. William Morris of Glantanat Ucha and Lloran Ucha) under the style of Jones & Morris, Upon the removal of the latter firm to Glasgow House in 1897 these premises came into the occupation of Messrs. J. E. & N. R. Smith, who were followed by Ledger & Ledger.

No. 3 (Mr. Bert Clarke). This is one of the oldest houses of the town, gable wise to the street and, if stripped of its plaster mask, some handsome timber

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framing would undoubtedly be revealed. It bears the inscription

P
J. E.
1707

and at the beginning of last century was owned and occupied by Mr. John Hopkins and afterwards (1828) by Mr. William Hopkins, ironmonger and druggist. It is also inscribed " ye olde Cake Shoppe," but this is misleading, for after the death of Mr. J. Hopkins, the place was a butcher's shop kept by Mr. Richard Poole (father of Mr. Chas. J. Poole) who came in from Bailey Street, and afterwards removed to the Old Mansion House in the Cross. Mr. Edward Davies (father of Dr. J. Sides Davies) a baker and confectioner, became tenant in 1831. He retired in 1866 and was succeeded by Mr. Samuel Withers, who in 1870 disposed of the business to Mr. Thomas Allmand. Up to this time the floor of the shop was a step below the level of the side path, and to remedy this, and give more head-room, the beams supporting the first floor, immediately over the entrance, had to be cut away and iron supports fixed instead.

Mr. Allmand was succeeded by his son, Mr. J. H. Allmand, who occupied until his death in 1901.

No. 1 (Mr. Reeves). In the wall of a building in the rear is a stone inscribed

S
J. E.
1700.

and there is another in the basement on which is engraved " George Withers 1712." This latter would probably be the grandfather of Mr. George Withers who resided here and was elected a burgess according to the following document :—

" At a meeting of the majority of the members of the Corporation of Oswestry, in the County of Salop, held in the Guildhall, in Oswestry aforesaid, on Friday, the 14th day of August, 1767, George, the son of John Withers, late of West Felton, was then elected to be admitted a Burgess of the said Corporation, with the approbation of the High Steward, which was then delivered, upon paying the sum of forty shillings for his admission.

" Given under my hand this 15th day of August, 1767.

WILLIAM GRIFFITHS, Mayor."

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In 1786 Mr. John Withers was sworn a councillor and at the same time elected muringer (which meant the honour of being chief magistrate the following year), but as he was of a retiring disposition and without ambition, he declined " his office of council man and also his burgesship and freedom of the town and borough " and was " disfranchised accordingly." The Withers family belonged to West Felton, in the registers of which parish there is mention of them as far back as 1634. On June 25th, 1754, John Withers was married to Frances Edwards (probably of the Woolston family) of Oswestry, and their son, John, was christened at West Felton in 1755. A Mr. Edwards, of Woolston, (believed to be a relative of Frances Edwards before mentioned) and a tenant, had a son who was christened " George Withers," to whom Mr. George Withers stood godfather. That child was Mr. George Withers Edwards of Woolston, who died about 1907, aged 85 years. The Edwards' of Woolston took the name of Withers-Edwards not long after 1837 in consequence of having inherited the property which had long belonged to the Withers family. Mrs. Withers (formerly Miss Humphreys) died at No. 1 about 1833. Her husband who lived here was succeeded by Mr. William Smale, chemist and druggist, who, in 1828, married Mary Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Richard Bill, ironmonger, No. 16, Bailey Street. Mrs. Smale was an exceedingly active lady, and in *Childish Reminiscences* by Miss Donne, is referred to thus :—

> " Had such a pretty face,
> Such brisk little ways, and
> Jet black curls, and
> Never one out of place."

Mr. Smale, who was a member of the town council died in 1859 at the age of sixty, after which event the business was carried on by Mrs. Smale and her two sons, Messrs. Edwin and Richard Bill Smale, until 1880, when they retired in favour of Mr. John Evans, of Nantygollen. Mr. Edwin Smale died in 1885, Mrs. Smale in 1891 at the age of eighty-five, and Mr. R. B. Smale in 1908. The latter, by his Will gave the

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residue of his estate (a considerable sum) in trust for the Mayor and Corporation, to be applied by them in such manner as they shall think proper for the benefit of the deserving poor of the town.

Returning to near the Post Office. Nos. 28 and 26 (Bradleys) These were formerly known as the Cross Street Vaults and at the beginning of last century belonged to and were occupied by Mr. Thomas Hughes, wine merchant. Mr. Hughes died in 1822, and was succeeded by his son Thomas. The front rooms on first floor were let as offices, and it was here that Mr. Charles Sabine, solicitor, practised after the dissolution of partnership with Mr. Nathaniel Minshall in 1830. In a letter of that year, written by Mr. C. W. Brooks, afterwards known as Shirley Brooks, editor of *Punch*, and who was serving his articles with his uncle, Mr. Sabine, reference is made to his rooms being opposite the White Horse Hotel. Mr. Thomas Hughes retired in 1858 in favour of his son-in-law, Mr. William Evans. In 1869 the place was known as the Wrexham Hotel, and occupied by Mrs. Margaret Thomas. She was succeeded by Mr. Edward Griffiths, who in 1873 gave up to Mr. Evan Parry. In the following year Mr. Henry Scott of Knockin became tenant, and after several other short lettings the licence was allowed to lapse.

No. 24 (Mortons). The occupier in 1845 was Mr. George Edwards. Then (1858) followed Mr. Thomas Whittington Evans, a grocer from Llanfyllin, but he only carried on for a few months, and was succeeded by Mr. Thos. H. Hartshorn for one year. Then Mr. Robert Walker opened as a general dealer, calling the place Birmingham House. Mr. Walker removed to No. 4, Willow Street in 1865, and in 1866 the present tenants entered, with the late Mr. John Anderson as manager.

No. 22 (Mr. Davies), formerly known as the Beehive, was in 1856 occupied by Mr. Thomas Evans. After Mr. Evans' departure and up to 1865 there were very frequent changes, but in that year Mr. George Soley Evans became the owner, and opened in the

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ironmongery business, remaining here until his death in 1912.

No. 20 (Messrs. Woodall & Co.). The front (ground floor) has recently been altered. In 1810 the premises were in the occupation of Mr. John Price (father of the Misses Price, The Cross Vaults), cabinet maker, who was succeeded by Mr. John Jones in the same business until 1856 when the stock and goodwill were disposed of to Mr. Edward Jones, who transferred it to No. 17 upon the opposite side of this street. Soon afterwards the property was purchased by Mr. Thomas Pryce, ironmonger, but was void in 1861 when Mr. Joseph Evans, grocer and seedsman, entered from the corner shop in Upper Brook Street. Mr. Evans, who married. firstly, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Evans of Morben, Machynlleth, and secondly, Mrs. Jeanette Powell of Utica, retired after forty years occupation and went to reside at Whittington where he died in 1904.

No. 18 (Mr. Plimmer), in 1845 belonged to Mr. James Vaughan, and a few years later was acquired by Mr. Thomas Pryce of No. 16. The occupier in 1850 was Mr. Robert Williams, draper and grocer, who in that or the following year removed to No. 1 The Cross. Miss King, a dressmaker from Willow Street, opened in 1858 for one year, after which the place was void for twelve months, when Mr. William Henry Turner, a native of Liverpool, commenced as a chemist and druggist, remaining until his death in 1894. The premises are now in the occupation of Mr. William Henry Plimmer, mayor 1906.

No. 16. These premises belonged to and were for many years occupied by Mr. Thomas Pryce, ironmonger and founder, who in 1864 retired in favour of his nephew, Mr. John Edward Littlehales, son of Mr. Saml. Richard Littlehales and Mary (Pryce) of Longden. Mr. Pryce went to reside to Castle Buildings where he died in 1876. His widow died at the same place in 1883, at the age of eighty seven. She was the daughter of Mr. Thomas Evans, a native of Welshpool, who in 1794, with Mrs. Pryce's mother

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(formerly Grace Sugden) and six other persons, founded the English Independent Chapel at that place. Mr. Evans' latter years were spent with his second wife at Union Place, Beatrice Street, where he died in 1829.

Mr. Littlehales died in 1908, but he had relinquished business some years previously.

No. 14. The Old Vaults. According to the signboard upon these premises, the business is stated to have been established in 1770. The following are some of the occupiers since 1845 :—Messrs. Richard Cross, Alexander Edwards, Joseph Jones, who died in 1857, Mrs. Mary Jones his widow, Miss Martha Harrison her sister (1859), Charles Cross (1864), Miss Thomas (1866), Henry Harrison (1871), Edward Griffiths (1872), Charles Cross and T. W. Hodges as Hodges & Cross (1873) H. L. Cross & Co. (1878), and Charles Galloway (1909.)

No. 12. King's Head Vaults. The front of this house has been rebuilt, but its rear portion (ground and first floors) comprising low, but cosy rooms and passages and fire place (6 feet thick and 10 feet wide) shows some of the original timber framing and the height of the structure at the time (centuries ago) when the roof was of straw. The first appearance of its name in the Registers is in 1803 when John Jones was tenant. The next is in 1810, the occupier being Cadwaladr Ellis In 1828 it belonged to and was held by Mr. Samuel Pritchard who died in 1836, being succeeded by his widow Mrs. Margaret Pritchard. Other occupiers have been Messrs. Richard Thomas, George Morris (1874), Enoch Evans (1878), and John Lloyd (1880). An old Malthouse belonging has been cleared away.

No. 10 (Hamer & Lacey). The front portion of these premises have also been rebuilt, but the rear part is coeval with and of the same style as No. 8. The house is believed to have been the Raven Inn,the licence of which was allowed to lapse in the beginning of the last century. Mr. Thomas Henry Scotcher, boot dealer, was occupier in 1845. In 1852 the licence was renewed, and the house opened as the Prince of

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Wales Inn, but its duration as such was short, for in 1856 Mr. Samuel Howard Coombs, a boot dealer, who occupied No. 8 adjoining, held this also. Subsequent occupiers have been Mr. William Tims, confectioner (1860), Mrs. Margaret Thomas, Mrs. Charlotte Neville, confectioner (1868), Mr. John Whitridge Thomas, grocer (from No. 2, Willow Street), Messrs. Jones & Morris, outfitters (1890), and Mr. William Davies in the same business (1898).

No. 8 (Star Tea Co.) Under the Will of A. Muckleston (member of a family that was associated with the town and afterwards Shrewsbury) there is a charge upon these premises of five shillings a year, to the poor of the town. The occupier in 1852 was Mr. S. H. Coombs, a boot and shoemaker that displayed the royal arms above his door. He was succeeded in 1865 by Mr. H. O. Edwards who, in 1880, retired in favour of Mr. George Oliver of Leicester.

Nos. 6 and 4. This block was formerly the town house of the Kynaston (Hardwick) family, owners of other property in the borough. It was purchased some 170 years ago by Mr. John Roberts, who opened in the hat manufacturing business. At one time beaver hats were made upon the premises, and no fewer than twenty hands were engaged in that industry alone. In 1827, Mr. John Jones, a relative of Mr. Roberts, entered the business, which he conducted at No. 4, and at the time of his retirement, was the oldest tradesman in the town. He died in 1897 at the age of eighty-seven. The concern was afterwards carried on by Mr. Wilkinson, of the same family, and when he retired in 1906, one of the oldest business houses in the town disappeared. The last of the Roberts', upon retiring, occupied the upper portion of No. 6 which has a separate and ornamental approach, the ground floor fronting the street being let off. It was here that the North & South Wales Banking Co. opened for business in 1836. In an advertisement which appeared in a Shrewsbury paper in 1838, subscriptions were solicited and asked to be paid into this bank towards the maintenance of the twenty-nine workmen (and their

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families) who had been discharged from the Gronwen Colliery for becoming total abstainers. About 1845 the Company removed to Osborne House, Bailey St. Afterwards the place was opened by Miss Margaret Elizabeth Stennett, in the fancy wool business, which was continued by her until 1892. Quoting again from *Childish Reminiscences* by Miss Donne :—

" . . . . for we
Would have thought the shopping poor work
Unless Miss Stennett's we'd been to see,
She always came from behind a screen,
With a kind of mysterious air,
And the nice smell of buttered toast
Plainly said that tea was set out there.
Then we bought from her perforated cards,
Such marks you don't now see
As those which we worked with
" Forget me Not," or sometimes
" Remember me."

The upper portion was in 1872 taken by Mr. John Maclardy, photographer. Mr. Maclardy was born in Argyleshire in 1842, came here from Shrewsbury, elected to the council in 1889 and mayor in 1902. He is now one of the oldest tradesmen in the town.

THE CROSS.

No. 2, Church Street (Mr. Fear) and No. 17, The Cross (L. C. & M. Bank). Upon the site of these, until 1888, stood an ancient looking building with coloured walls and projecting (lower) windows, the portion fronting the Cross being set back a short distance and protected by iron railings. It comprised two shops, fronting Church Street, the whole of which, with the warehouses and printing offices in the rear, were demolished, and the present buildings, designed by Messrs. Grayson & Ould, Liverpool, erected in 1890, the contractor being Mr. W. H. Thomas, Salop Road.

The shop which stood upon the site of No. 2 (Mr. Fear) was in 1845 occupied by Mr. E. L. Roberts. A few years later Mr. John Jones, provision merchant,

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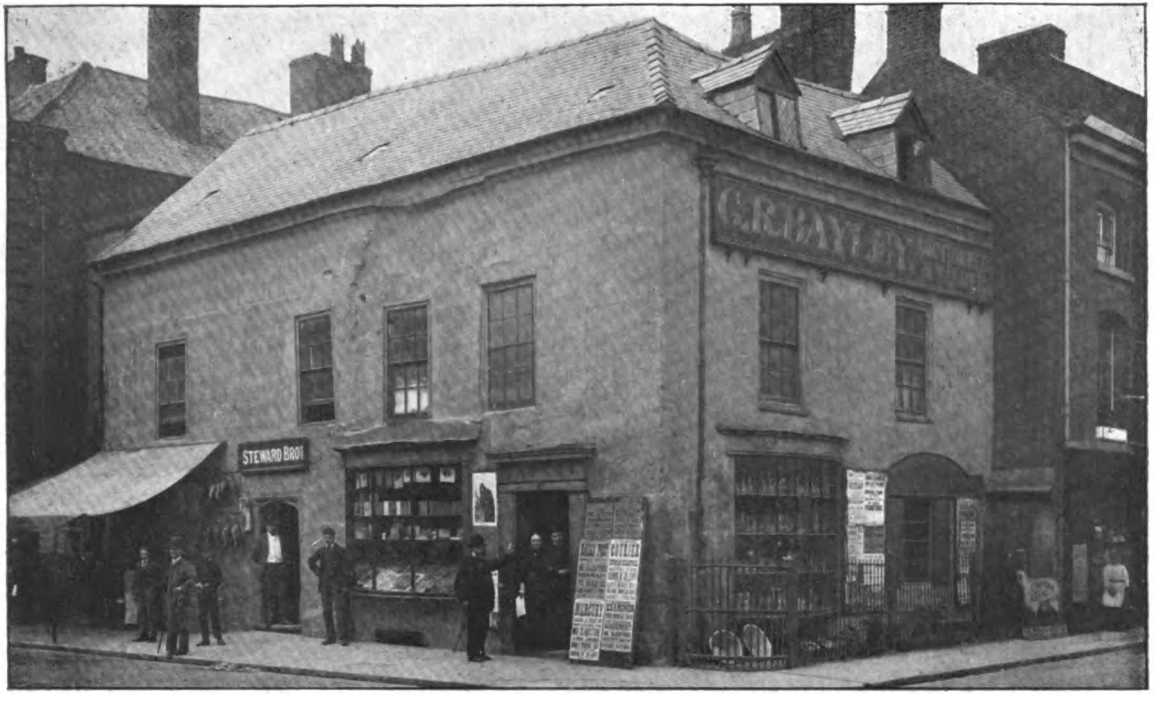

OLD PREMISES in the Cross, before the erection of the North and South Wales Bank. (Page 133).

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removed there from Bailey Street and remained until about 1886, when he was succeeded by Mr. William Evans. Subsequent occupiers were Mr. John Williams and Stewart Brothers.

The other shop upon the site of the London City & Midland Bank, Ld., now No. 17, The Cross, was about the year 1840, like several others upon that side of the street, very unlucky in its occupiers, and in 1842 when the late Mr. Charles George Bayley, a native of Wrexham, became tenant at a rent of £25, it was predicted that *he* would soon follow his predecessors, but the prophets knew not Mr. Bayley's qualities, for he was one of the most energetic, industrious and straightforward of men, and very soon established a flourishing business as china dealer, printer and newsagent. For many years this was the only newspaper shop in the town. In addition to the business here, Mr. Bayley had a branch china shop at Welshpool, where he attended upon Mondays, and he often related that in pre-railway days he frequently walked there and back, a distance of thirty-two miles, at a time when the roads were not up to present day standard. Mr. Bayley married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Thomas Minnet of Morda Mills and Pentrepoeth, was elected a member of the town council in 1868, mayor 1871, and an alderman later. He died in 1902 at the age of eighty-five. In the fifties he brought out a monthly paper entitled *The Oswestry Herald and Railway Guide*, was one of the founders of the *Wrexham Advertiser*, and for nearly thirty years acted as superintendent of the Baptist Sunday School in this town.

No. 19, The Cross (Mr. Llewelyn) has been a chemist shop for nearly a century. The property (as well as No. 21) in 1845 belonged to Mr. A. B. Marriott, and was in the occupation of Mr. Richard Evans until his death early in the sixties, when Mr. Joseph Griffiths succeeded. In 1866 Mr. Griffiths left for Liverpool and the business was taken over by Mr. David Vaughan until 1904, when he retired in favour of Mr. T. Williamson.

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No. 21 (Phillips' Stores) was formerly known as the Golden Eagle and belonged to Mr. Edward Birch Marriott, who in the beginning of the last century, with Mr. Arrowsmith as partner, carried on the business of a mercer and draper here, and with Mr. Edward Wynne Evans (post-master), under the style of Messrs. Evans & Marriott was also a banker, and as such, Treasurer to the Oswestry Incorporation in 1799. He died in 1851 aged seventy-eight.

In 1828 the occupier was Mr. William Williams, draper and grocer, and mayor 1843, In a year or so afterwards, Mr. Richard William Davies became tenant, and continued until 1856, when the business was taken over by Mr. John Moreton (of the Squenant family) who removed from Paris House, Market Street. He carried on until 1862, in which year he disposed of the business to Mr. David Morris of Lloran Ucha, who was joined by Mr. Griffith Griffiths, under the style of Morris & Griffiths. In about five years afterwards Mr. Morris' share was taken over by Mr. Samuel White of Tregeiriog, and the firm became Griffiths & White, but only for a short time, Mr. Griffiths of the grocery department opening at No. 12, The Cross, and Mr. White, in 1868, disposing of the concern to Mr. Robert Roberts of the late firm of Messrs. Jones Rogers, Roberts & Co., No. 15, The Cross, who carried on the business under the style of T. W. Oliver & Co. and subsequently as Roberts & Oliver, until 1875, when it passed into the hands of Mr. R. Howell Davies of The Crown Shop (No. 16, Cross Street), who continued the drapery branch only until 1886 when the premises were taken over by the present proprietors.

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WILLOW STREET.

No. 1, Willow Street (Mr. Dales). This also belonged to Mr. Marriott. The tenant in 1845 was Mr. Thomas Jones (known by the distinctive name of " Jones, Siambergerrig ") who carried on the business of a grocer and confectioner. Mr. Jones presented his native parish, Llansantffraid Glynceiriog, with the site of the National School, and retired in 1858, when he was succeeded by Mrs. Elizabeth Jones, widow of Mr. John Jones, pawnbroker, who removed here from No. 36, Bailey Street. After the death of Mrs. Jones, about 1862, Mr. John Hudson Dales, who married the daughter, took over the business and carried it on until his death in 1897.

In a garden at the rear of the last-mentioned premises, and approached by a passage from Willow Street, is a dwelling house known as Willow Cottage, wherein resided Miss Sarah Marriott, sister of Mr. E. B. Marriott. She died in 1864 aged eighty. Subsequent occupiers were Messrs. Samuel White, James Abel, Thomas Clamp and Henry Harrison.

No. 3, Bull's Head Inn. In 1845 this was a shoe shop, kept by Mrs. Ann Phillips. A little later Mrs. Jemima Mytton, from No. 94, Willow Street, opened in the Millinery business, and in 1864 Mr. Robert Jones, grocer, removed here from No. 12, Bailey Street and continued until 1866, when the property came into the market and was acquired by Miss Mary Lloyd of the Bull's Head, which was then at No. 9 in this street, whereupon Miss Lloyd removed here, and Mr. Jones to No. 9. Directly afterwards Miss Lloyd married Mr. Thomas Hughes, who died in 1876. Mrs. Hughes continued the business until her death, when her successor was Mr. J. Pryce Jones (son of Mr. Josiah Jones, Three Tuns Inn) who died in 1905.

No. 5 (R. J. Roberts & Co.) This place has been refronted. Formerly it consisted of two holdings, the portion next to No. 3 being a brazier's shop, which for upwards of forty years was in the occupation of Mr.

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George Morrall Bickerton. Mr. Bickerton was a member of the town council and died in 1876, after when, the widow, Mrs. Sarah Bickerton, with her son John, carried on the business, under the style of G. M. Bickerton & Son, until 1882. The property and business was then brought into the market and purchased by Mr. R. J. Roberts, who in the same year opened as a general ironmonger.

The other portion (adjoining Cambrian House) was a public House called the Duke of York Inn, the earliest mention of which is in 1799 when it was held by Edward Roberts. Other occupiers have been Messrs. Robert Hayward (1810), Richard Foulkes (1828), William Jones (1845), G. M. Bickerton, John Bickerton (1876)Edward Richards, from Balmoral House Bailey Street (1880), Miss Elizabeth Bebb Davies (1881), Mrs. Fisher of Sheffield (1882), and Mr. William Davies, during whose tenure the license was allowed to lapse. It was afterwards opened in the outfitting business by Mr. William Lewis, who was succeeded by Mrs. John Hughes, newsagent, and ultimately was added to the adjoining premises.

No. 7, Cambrian House. The occupier of this place in 1845 was Mr. William Morris Davies, draper, who in 1849 was followed by Mr. William Griffiths, boot dealer. In 1859 Mr. Edward Jones opened as milliner, but died before the end of the year, after when Mrs. Jones, his widow, carried on for a short time. She was succeeded by Miss Eliza Poole, daughter of Mr. Richard Poole of The Cross, who in 1867 married Mr. Thomas Roberts, son of Mr. David Roberts of the Crown Shop, Cross Street. Mrs. Roberts was also local agent for the British and Foreign Bible Society. Mr. Roberts, who served some years in the office of the Stamp Distributer, was also Vestry Clerk. He died in 1895.

Nos. 9 and 9a (Beehive). As before mentioned, this was the Bull's Head Inn, established about 1830, and in 1845 belonged to Mrs. Mary Lloyd and in the occupation of Mr. John Lloyd. Mr. Lloyd died in 1853 and his widow in 1866, when the property was

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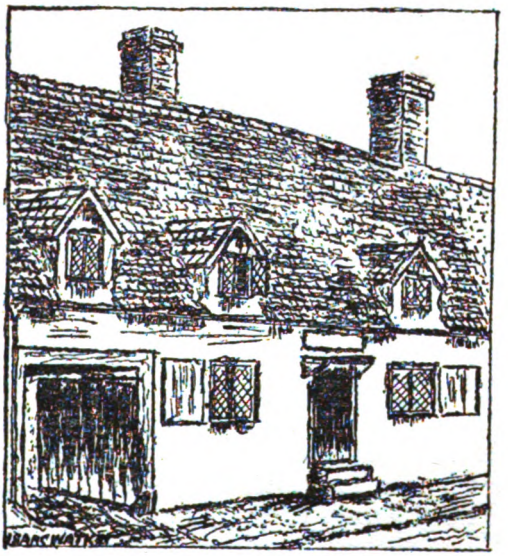
purchased by Mr. Robert Jones, grocer, from No. 3 below, who removed here in the same year. At the time of Mr. Jones' occupation the entrance was at the side next the Cross, the door being approached up two steps, since when the ground floor has been brought to the level of the side path and the interior altered. Mr. Jones retired about the year 1876 in favour of his brother Mr. Thomas Jones of Chester, who died in 1880. The latter was succeeded by Mr. Francis Murray, grocer (from No. 23), who occupied for a few years. Since then the tenants have changed frequently.



THE BOAR'S HEAD HOTEL, 1850.

No. 11. Boar's Head Hotel. This was formerly an ancient looking structure, occupied in 1801 by Mr. Edward Jones, and in 1828 by Mr. William Davies. The occupier in 1845 was Mrs. Ann Moreton, and she was succeeded by her daughter, Miss Elizabeth Moreton, who in 1872 disposed of the premises to Mr. James England from the George Hotel, during whose occupation the front was rebuilt and some internal improvements made. Mr. England, born near Bath in 1840, married Elizabeth, daughter of

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Mr. John Evans, Farm Nurseries, Llanymynech, and took an active part in forming what is now known as the Oswestry Victuallers' Association, of which he became the president. He was also for seventeen years a member of the town council, and died in 1896.

In 1821, a fire broke out in the stables of the hotel. The horses of the Machynlleth (carrier) waggon were in at the time, but would not stir from the place until their gears had been thrown on them.

No. 13 (Parrs Bank). Upon the site of these recently erected premises there stood one of the oldest shops in the town. It was a timber framed building, with the ground floor about four steps above the side path, and a workshop in the basement approached by outside steps protected by iron railings that projected on to the footpath. The occupier for a generation was Mr. John Pain, cooper, who died in 1883 at the age of eighty seven. Mr. E. L. Taylor, a tent proprietor, occupied for two or three years after when the old building was demolished. There was also a Malthouse at the rear, of which Mr. Kyffin was for a long time the tenant.

No. 15 (Old Bank House). The portion adjoining No. 13 has always been a private residence, but in the upper portion, in 1792, was started a Bank which afterwards filled an important part in the commercial life of the town. The founders were Messrs. Richard Croxon, The Lawn, John Sheppard (mayor 1810), Thomas Lovett, corn merchant, Chirk, T. Longueville Jones, solicitor, and John Gibbons, The Poplars. In 1810 the firm was joined by Mr. Charles Thomas Jones, half brother of Mr. T. Longueville Jones, and son of Captain Thomas Jones of Wrexham by his second wife Miss Ann Lloyd. He married MissWelch of Liverpool, and came here from that city, with his wife and children, the latter including Mr. James Thomas Jones (afterwards of Brynhafod), Mr. Owen Glendower Jones (afterwards of Llanforda Isaf), Miss Anne Jones (who became the wife of Mr. T. L. Longueville of Penylan) and another daughter who married the Rev. T. Griffith Roberts, vicar of Llanrwst. He

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was mayor in 1837 and died in 1847. Other gentlemen that became associated with the Bank were Mr. F. G. Buller Swete of Oxton, Devonshire (1860), Mr. T. L. Longueville, Mr. John Jones, Bellan House, Mr. James T. Jones, Mr. Owen G. Jones, Mr. R. J. Croxon, The Lawn, Mr. Charles W. Roberts (son of the before-named Rev. T. Griffith Roberts) and Mr. T. Longueville, Llanforda Hall. In 1828 its title was Croxon, Longueville, Croxon, Jones & Co. In 1893 it was converted into a Joint Stock Bank under the title of Croxon, Jones & Co. (Old Bank) Limited, and the following were the directors of the new Company :— Lord Harlech (chairman), Messrs. T. Longueville, F. G. Buller Swete (managing director) Edward Williams-Vaughan and Martin Benson Lawford, with David Roberts as Secretary, but in August of the following year it was incorporated with Parr's Banking Company, and the business removed to No. 13 upon the completion of the new building there. The front door and windows of No. 15 have been much altered, the house entrance was nearer No. 13, and that of the bank at the end next to No. 17, with a couple of steps leading to each of them. Mr. Charles W. Roberts died at Bath in 1902 and Mr. Buller Swete at the Quarry in 1919.

No. 17 (Old Post Office). The post office was removed here about 1839 from No. 10, Cross Street, the post mistress being Miss Sarah Babbington, great aunt to Dr. Babbington Blaikie of Rhyddallt.

At that time the arrangements connected with it were not only very primitive but most inconvenient, for, in all weather, applicants for stamps, letters, orders, &c., had to stand in a draughty passage outside, quietly cultivating patience and politeness, until their turn came to be served through a small aperture having a sliding shutter, similar to what may still be seen at the booking office of a country side railway station. Fronting the premises was a high wall, out of line with the adjoining property, which was taken down in 1863 and the present iron fence erected. Miss Babbington died in 1863. For a short

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time during her illness the business was conducted in the passage leading from Church Street to the English Walls and Smithfield, but afterwards resumed here, when Mr. William Morris, clerk in charge and father of Mr. A. Walter Morris, town clerk, was appointed the postmaster. Owing to ill health, Mr. Morris resigned in 1870, being succeeded by Mr. William Griffiths, who from the same cause also resigned after a few months service. His successor was Mr. John Williams, a railway station master at Llynclys. Up to that time there were only a couple of postmen doing town duty—Edward Poole of Bailey Street (succeeded by Ezra Roberts) and John Pierce of Beatrice Street, and livery was first worn by them in 1872. The establishment was removed to No. 30, Church Street in 1879, these premises being afterwards used as a surgery by Dr. Hammond Williams until his removal to Castle House.

No. 19, Willow House (with No. 17) belonged to Mr. Thomas Penson in 1845. Mr. Lewis Jones, town clerk, resided here at the beginning of the last century. The occupier in 1830 and for some years afterwards, was Mr. Thomas Hill, auctioneer. Mr. Hill married Edith Ann, daughter of Mr. Jacob Smith, of Ludlow, and was mayor in 1847. Mr. William Hayward, solicitor, mayor, 1860, Mr. Thomas Evans, Dr. John Wynne and Dr. J. Sides Davies also lived here. The last named, son of Mr. Edward Davies, confectioner, 3, Church Street, was borough coroner and in 1870 removed to the Poplars, being succeeded here by Mr. Thomas Whitfield. Mr. Whitfield, born in 1837 at Brook House, Guilsfield, was educated at the Wrexham Grammar School, married Mary, daughter of Mr. Richard Richards, Collfryn, Llansantffraid, and came to Oswestry in 1868, was elected upon the town council in 1874, Mayor in 1883, and made a Justice of the Peace in 1893. He was founder of thewell-known firm of Oswestry auctioneers, and for many years Secretary of the Oswestry and District Agricultural Society. He removed to the Old Vicarage House , No. 28, Upper Brook Street.

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140 **ARTHUR STREET, or Butcher's Arms Shut.** Page 170.

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Nos. 21 and 23. The site of these, until early in the sixties, was a walled garden, with a large Willow tree growing near to No. 19, which gave the name to that house. The ground formerly belonged to Mr. William Griffiths (mayor 1766) and was purchased by Mr. Edward Edwards, Five Bells Inn, and the present shops, &c., erected thereon. The first to occupy No. 21 was Mr. G. P. Davies, draper, by whom it was named Commerce House. After a short stay Mr. Davies removed to No. 7 The Cross, being succeeded here by Mr. William Jones, chemist, of Llanerchymedd. Mr. Jones died in 1867 and was followed by his brother, Mr. Thomas Jones, the present proprietor. Mr. Jones is now the oldest tradesman in the town, having been in business upon the same premises for upwards of fifty-three years.

No. 23. The occupiers here have been Miss Fanny Edwards, glass and china dealer, Mr. Francis Murray, grocer, (who opened in 1875 and after staying five years, removed to No. 9,) Mr. W. W. Hayes, Mr. J. James, the Misses M. & E. Williams, and W. Tunley.

No. 25 (Mrs. Bradley) is an old house and at one time must have been a superior residence. The last to occupy it as a whole was Mr. David Thomas of The Cross. After then a portion of it was used as an office by Mr. William Roberts, solicitor, who generally had an inseparable dog at his heels. During Mr. Roberts' occupation it is stated that Mr. Charles Pratt, a butcher who had a stall in the Shambles, called one day at the office and asked him what he would advise in case a dog ran away with a joint off his stall, " Why, said the lawyer, " you should proceed against the owner of the dog and get damages." Then said the butcher," The dog belonged to you." " How much was the leg of mutton worth ? " inquired the lawyer, to which the butcher replied, " Four shillings and sixpence." " Then I must trouble you to hand me two and two pence," said the lawyer, " as my fee for advising you is six and eight pence," and it is said that the butcher had to pay the difference.

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A firm of dyers, for whose accommodation a drying room was erected at the rear, and Messrs. E. Worton Jones & Co., staymakers, afterwards resided here.

Nos. 29 and 31 (Mr. John Davies and Five Bells Hotel). These have been rebuilt within the last forty years. Previously there was upon the site a low-fronted building, having a high pitched roof and tall chimneys, hinged shutters outside of small paned windows, massive axe-dressed beams and large open fire places, all indicating that it was of the sixteenth century. The premises formed part of the estate of Mr. William Griffiths, maltster, and mayor 1766, and in 1866 were purchased by Mr. Edward Edwards from Messrs. Poole and Haslam, representatives of the owner, Anne the daughter of Mr. William Griffiths having married Mr. William Poole, and Miss Anne Skye, a grand-daughter, Mr. Thomas Haslam. Mr. Griffiths was the owner of much property in the town and also Penybryn and Cefnbraich farms in the parish of Llansilin.

The old sign upon the house had a cluster of bells painted thereon, and it is related that the "Dead Set," a party of roisters which existed in the town in the forties, one night removed and carried away the sign, and fixed it upon a house wherein five *belles* or maids resided. Mr. Thomas Davies was occupier in 1762. Then followed Mr. John Lewis (1805), Mrs. Margaret Lewis (1828), Mr. Edward Edwards, butcher and maltster (who died in 1866), Messrs. Thomas Roberts (1866), Philip Ashley (1870), Robert Evans (1873), John Chidlow (1874), Thomas Rogers (1875), Mrs. Mary Rogers (1881) and Mr. William Lockley.

The portion where now stands No. 29 was a market room and butcher's shop, the business in the latter being carried on by Mr. Edward Edwards. He was succeeded by his son Mr. Thomas Edwards, who in 1889 took his brother-in-law into partnership, and traded under the style of Edwards and Whitfield. Mr. Edwards afterwards removed to Llys House, was elected on the Council in 1888 and mayor in 1897. He now resides at Llysfields.

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No. 33 (Mr. Cappel). A portion of the front of this place has been altered. In the *Oswestry Herald* of May, 1822, appeared an advertisement announcing that Mrs. Frances Jackson, late of Gledrid Vale, Chirk, intended opening a Ladies' School in this house, which had just been vacated by Mrs. Green. The school existed in 1870, for Miss Mary Hannah Jackson, in that year announced a " Ladies' Boarding and Day School." The premises were afterwards occupied by Messrs. Robert Stephenson, cabinet maker (1874), R. Kirkpatrick, fruiterer (1886), and Edward Thomas, saddler (1894).

No. 35 (Conservative Club), was formerly known as Penson's Chambers, the block having been erected by Mr. Thomas Penson, architect and surveyor and mayor 1840, for his own occupation. Mr. Penson was a celebrated road surveyor and bridge builder, but it is said that some of the latter are inclined to be humpy shaped. He was also architect of the Cross Market Hall, and the National Schools, and up to his death in 1859, held the important post of Surveyor of roads for this County. Mr. Penson did not occupy the whole of the block, but let the front portion to the North & South Wales Banking Company, who removed in from Osborne House, Bailey Street. The manager at that time was Mr. Francis Peter Roberts (appointed in 1845), who died in 1847. He was succeeded by Mr. Robert Roberts who died in 1859, the latter being followed by Mr. D. D. Rees, who died in 1871. Then came Mr. James Vincent Williams, who had been here previously, when he married Harriette, daughter of Mr. Edward Jones of the White Horse Hotel. Mr. Williams died in 1912, but had retired some years before. The concern was transferred to the new premises, No. 17, The Cross, in 1891.

In the other part of the building, Mr. Penson was succeeded by Mr. Benjamin Lay, and he was followed by Mr. Edward Jones, solicitor.

No. 37 (Mr. Markey), in 1872 was the stamp distributor's office, previously carried on at the Library, Leg Street, and which in 1881 ceased to be a

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separate establishment and was transferred to the Post Office in Church Street.

Dr. T. Hammond Williams then commenced practice here and continued until his removal to No. 17, when Mr. W. J. Hodgson, a former Borough Surveyor, opened an office for a short time, and was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Markey, who removed in from Bailey Street and continued in occupation until his death in 1913.

No. 39 (Mr. Bull). The occupiers in 1860 were Messrs. Mullins & Hughes, dyers, afterwards Mr. Robert Cook, Rev. David Hughes, C.M. bookseller (his wife was a dressmaker), Mrs. Tomkies Miss D. E. Robinson, milliner, 1887 (calling the place Kingston House) and Miss M. J. Barrett, milliner (1895), who changed the sign to that of the " Golden Ball."

No. 41 (Mr. Barrett). Upon the front of this shop is a stone inscribed

F.E.
1707.

Mr. Griffith Edmunds, tailor, lived here before his removal to Albion Hill, and it is said that the premises were converted into a butcher's shop for Mr. Thomas Jackson who succeeded him. Upon the death of Mr. Hiram Williams, Mr. Jackson removed to Llys House and Mr. Arthur Barrett came here from No. 96. Judging by the internal arrangements of ground floor and the fitting up of the cellars it may be gathered that the place was at one time an Inn.

No. 43. A dwelling house wherein Mr. William Hughes, tanner, resided before going into No. 58.

No. 45 (Miss Williams) was for many years the residence of Mr. John Benjamin Beard, cabinet maker, who died in 1882.

No. 47. The Poplars, belonged to and was occupied by Mr. John Gibbons, elected a freeman 1776, mayor 1789, and one of the founders of the Old Bank. His son who died in 1802, was also a partner in that concern, and a daughter, Anne, was the mother of the late Mr. T. L. Longueville of Penylan. Mr. Gibbons purchased half of the Llwynymaen estate, with the

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object of getting the minerals under it, and a colliery, which he opened there, was in working for many years. He died in 1811 and was buried at Morton. In October, 1810, the Rev. William Wynne Owen, curate of Whittington 1803—1810, chaplain and friendly preceptor at Halston (for the celebrated Jack Mytton), married Sarah, daughter of Mr. John Gibbons, and resided here some time. In the marriage settlement he is described as of Ty Gwyn, Dolgelley, and was closely connected with the Owen's of Woodhouse. After being curate of West Felton he was presented to the living of Llanymawddwy, where he died in 1834, his former patron, Mr. Jack Mytton, having predeceased him in March of the same year. A writer on " Former Days " relates the following :—" An old lady told me she was going up Willow Street one day, and saw a crowd in front of The Poplars, and upon inquiry found that the celebrated Jack Mytton had called to see his chaplain, Mr. Wynne Owen, who resided there, but finding he was ill in bed, went upstairs on horse-back."

In 1832 The Poplars was purchased by Mr. Edward Jennings of Llynclys and Sweeney, and his son, Mr. Philip Jennings, barrister-at-law, succeeded him in the ownership. The latter had an only daughter, Mary Emma, who married Mr. Charles Edward Stewart of London, and in 1892 disposed of this property to Mrs. Catherine Thomas, who subsequently sold it to the present occupier, Mr. Henry R. C. Kidner. Mr. Jennings was also owner of the land south of Brynhafod lane, and the new road recently opened out there, bears his name, and a road constructed through ground belonging to him south of Trinity Church, being named after his daughter Mrs. Stewart.

The occupier of The Poplars in 1855 was Mr. James Chamberlain, Inspector of Excise, whose daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, became the wife of Mr. Thomas Weaver Hill, auctioneer, that built Ashlands. Subsequent occupiers were Mr. G. S. Mellor (1862), Rev. George Christian (1869), Dr. John Sides Davies, until his death in 1881, and Mr. W. H. Spaull, archi-

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tect, mayor, 1876, who afterwards removed to The Gables, Upper Brook Street.

No. 55. The occupier in 1845 was Mrs. Mary Ann Jennings, widow of Mr. Edward Jennings, The Poplars. Many years afterwards, Mr. John Whitridge Davies (of The Golden Ball) deputy registrar of the County Court, came here to reside. He married Susan, daughter of Mr. Thomas Gregory of 11, Church Street, and Wem, and Dr. Walford Davies, director of music at the University College of Wales, is their youngest son. Mr. Whitridge Davies died in 1885.

No. 57 (Ty Gwyn) was the residence of Mr. Henry Davies, solicitor, before his removal to Castle House, Mr. John Evans in 1862, and in 1869, of Mr. John Jones, provision merchant, No. 2, Church Street.

No. 59 (Mr. Haggarty). Mr. William Franklin resided here in 1845. It afterwards became the Willow Street Academy conducted by Mr. J. Pryce Jones, who came in from Middleton Place, Salop Road. Mr. Jones remained until 1862 when he removed to Grove Park School, Wrexham, being succeeded here by the Rev. Joseph Hillier, C.M., a Scotchman, who whilst spending a few years in Pembrokeshire acquired the Welsh language, and became a very fluent and popular preacher in that tongue. He carried on this school until 1878, when he left for Beaumaris where he died in 1912 aged eighty years. His successor was Mr. Owen Owen, M.A., a native of Llaniestyn and who after coming to Oswestry, married the eldest daughter of Mr. John Jones, hop merchant. The school was subsequently removed to The Lawn, Church Street, Another entrance has been made in the front where there was previously a window only.

Nos. 61, 63 and 65. Among the occupiers here have been Mr. T. Pryce Parry, woolstapler, Mrs. Isabella Peate, Messrs. John Jones, cabinetmaker, Thomas Hughes, tailor (from No. 4 in this street), and Joseph Berry for many years an accountant at the Old Bank.

We have now reached a point where there was another opening in the walls, and which was called

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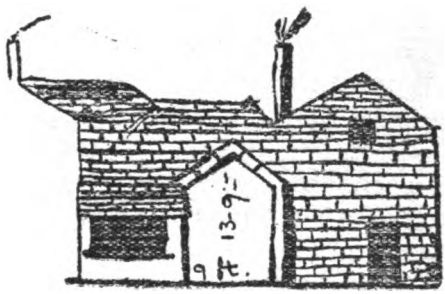
Willow Gate. Very little is known of it beyond that it was the subject of periodical complaints at the Borough Quarter Sessions. The following are two of them :—" 1737. We present (indicte) the Lord Duke of Powis for not repairing the Willow Gate house, or securing of it as it is very dangerous to all coming and going through that gate and ready to drop and ought to be repaired by him or his agents." " 4th May, 1764. We present (indicte) the Murringer (collector of the tolls and dues) for not repairing the side walls or



WALIA, OR WILLOW GATE.

battlements of the Bridge in the Willow Gate, being dangerous to passengers, and if not repaired by next Quarter Sessions fined in twenty shillings." The gate was taken down in 1782, the Lord of the Manor, upon the application of Mr. John Lloyd on behalf of the Mayor and Body Corporate, consenting to " dispense with the Erection of Pillars at the Willow Gate notwithstanding anything within contained to the contrary."

The tolls here were in 1770 let for £6 and in 1797 (to John Lloyd) for £8 per annum.

WELSH WALLS.

Turning upon the left we enter the Welsh Walls. At the beginning of last century the only dwelling house upon the east side between No. 61, Willow Street and Lloran House, was the Gardener's Cottage,

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near the site of the present Park Keeper's house in Cae Glas. The dwelling was part of the Cae Glas property, and was occupied by John and Nanny Edwards who came there in 1828 from No. 13, Oakhurst Road. Shortly afterwards a cold plunge bath was formed with water flowing that way from "Cae ffynnon Symon" (Simon's Well) mentioned in a *Partial survey of the Parish of Oswestry* in 1697. In an advertisement that appeared in 1845 the charge for the use of this bath (including towels) was 5s. per annum, or 6d. a single bath. These old people were succeeded by another John Edwards, a native of Cynynion, and last tenant of The Nag's Head Inn, Willow Street.

The square building (now stuccoed) standing opposite the yard entrance to the White Lion Hotel, was used as a schoolroom by Mr. J. Pryce Jones of the Willow Street Academy and other masters succeeding him. It was afterwards utilized as an armoury. In 1848 the Welsh Wesleyans rented the upper room therein for holding religious services, leaving there in 1854 for a more convenient room in Black gate.

Gatacre Place. The name given to this spot points to a connection with the Gatacre family. As previously stated, Colonel Gatacre married Annabella, one of the daughters of Mr. Robert Lloyd of the "Great House," Church Street, and who thereby became possessed of a moiety of Mr. Lloyd's property which comprised the field, No. 2 on Map, whereon Gatacre Place is erected. The portion was purchased by Mr. Walter Pryce, solicitor (son of Mr. Nathaniel Price, Salop Road), who in 1841 converted some buildings then standing thereon into cottages, erected several others, and commenced upon a larger house (now held by Miss Edwards) which was intended for his own occupation, but he died (in 1845) before its completion.

The approach to Gatacre place is called Brynhafod Lane, because of its leading to a residence bearing that name. When that house was erected by Mr. Richard Cross he called it Plas-llwyn, but after being

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acquired by Mr. James Thomas Jones, the name was changed to Brynhafod. Mr. Jones, who was the son of Mr. Charles T. Jones, Old Bank, married Lucy, daughter of Mr. William Barber of Liverpool, and was mayor three years in succession—1856, 1857, and 1858. He died in 1878 aged seventy-two, and his widow in 1894, at the age of eighty-eight.

Returning, we come to "Zion" the chapel of the Welsh Calvinistic Methodists, first erected in 1837 in place of the one in Castle Street, with an approach from Brynhafod lane. In 1868 the building was taken down and the present edifice erected upon the same site at a cost of £1400, but it was not until 1876, when Park Avenue was plotted, that land was secured to form the approach as at present, after which that from Brynhafod lane was closed.

The National Schools were erected in 1840 upon land (part No. 2 on map) that belonged to Colonel Gatacre, from plans prepared by Mr. Thomas Penson of Willow Street, the contractor being Mr. James Vaughan of Beatrice Street. The cost was defrayed by public subscriptions, grants of £338 by the Council

NATIONAL SCHOOLS AND MASTER'S RESIDENCE, 1841.

of Education and £200 by the National Society, and a contribution from the funds of the St. Oswald's Church Sunday School. The block, when opened in 1841, contained a residence for the headmaster, but further teaching accommodation being required it was later

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converted into class rooms. The last of the masters to reside upon the premises was Mr. James Feather, who held the appointment for thirty-five years. He died in 1896, but had resigned the mastership some years previously. By an order in Council, the building was created a Church of England School in 1872. Up to 1851 the master had charge of the Depot of the S.P.C.K.

Park Avenue will be noticed later. The strip of land from Fairfield to end of Cottage Hospital boundary was taken from No. 2 (on map).

Fairfield, the houses next the Schools, were built in 1870, as also Swan Hill adjoining, the latter being named after the residence that formerly stood in Brogyntyn Park.

The foundation stone of the Cottage Hospital was laid on 1st November, 1869, and the building opened in the following year. Previous to its erection the hospital was located at Herbert Villas, 94, Castle Street, where the matron was Miss Jane Peile. The first Ladies' Committee connected therewith consisted of Sarah Lady Harlech, Lady Frances Lloyd, and the Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley Owen.

A little over a hundred years ago there was a mud pond on the centre of the present road, just opposite the extreme end of the Hospital boundary, through which flowed the water from "Simons' Well," previously referred to, and at that time the ground from this point to the White Lion Hotel premises was a plantation. The land was afterwards formed into a garden, upon the centre of which stood a tall square-shaped cottage that was demolished to make room for Arundel Road. Nearer the White Lion was a sawpit and the dilapidated workshop of Mr. John Pain, cooper, of Willow Street.

WILLOW STREET—*continued.*

White Lion Hotel, Willow Street. The recent occupiers are as follows:—Messrs. Robert Hughes (1845), Hugh Roberts (1850), Mrs. Sarah Roberts, Miss Catherine Roberts (1860), Mr. Edward Edwards,

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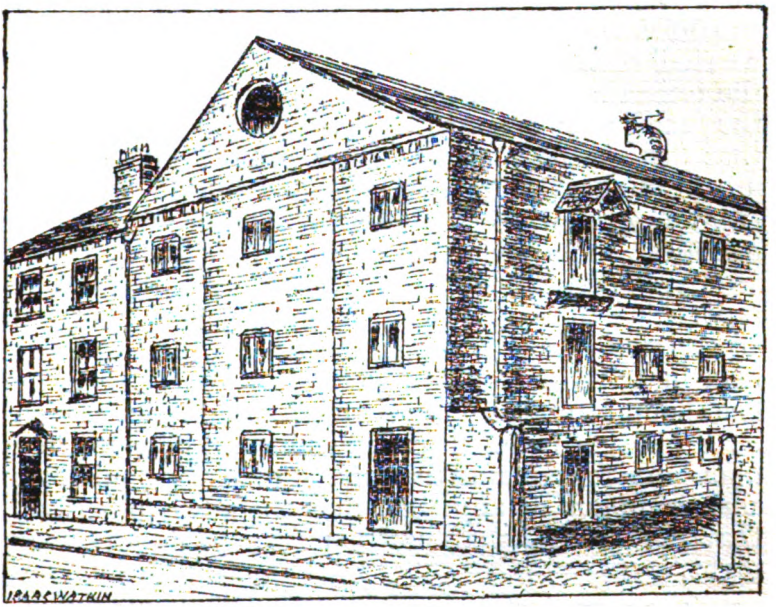
who died in 1873, Mrs. Catherine Edwards, widow, who afterwards married Mr. James Thomas and to whom the licence was transferred in 1875. Mr. Thomas died in 1893, and Mrs. Catherine Thomas, his successor, in 1910.

The building adjoining was formerly the Town Theatre. Opened in 1819 by Mr. Charles Stanton and his company (Quarter Sessions " 20 Aug. 1819. Mr. Charles Stanton, comedian, was at this Court licensed to perform with his Company in the New Theatre,



THE "NEW THEATRE" OF 1820. Now a Malt-house.

the ensuing season.") It was a great success for a few years, but the galleries becoming unsafe, it was closed early in the fifties and converted into a malthouse, the first tenant thereof being Mr. Edward Edwards, Five Bells, who was succeeded by Mr. Moses Edwards of The Lodge.

Adjoining the upper side of the yard entrance to Hotel, were the first gas works, built in 1820. Considering that gas, applied to the purposes of illumination, was first tried in 1792, and introduced in London

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in 1807, Oswestry was very early in adopting it. The honour of introducing it here was due to Mr. Robert Roberts, a man of much talent and of singular perseverance and industry, who resided at No. 2, Lower Brook Street. The first public building lighted with it was the New Theatre adjoining, indeed it was the first experiment made in the town. In the *Oswestry Herald* of 3rd October, 1820, there is an article reporting the progress made " in the manufacture of the wonderful illuminant." In about twelve months afterwards the same paper says, " From the praiseworthy example set by the inhabitants of Willow Street we shall soon have the pleasure of seeing the whole of the town illuminated this winter with gas," and upon the 31st December of the same year it was announced that " a subscription has been entered into by the inhabitants of Bailey Street for lighting it with gas, two lamps of which are already lighted, and the remainder will be completed on Thursday next."

At a Vestry meeting on 8th August, 1824, it was reported " that Mr. Roberts proposes to light the Oswestry Church with gas." At another meeting held in 1831, it was " ordered that Mr. Roberts be held bound to furnish gas without any offensive smell . . . . . that the offensive smell cannot be permitted upon any terms, and that if the officiating minister shall complain at any time that the gas is offensive, that Mr. Roberts shall not be paid anything for that night."

The manufacture continued here until 1842 when the new works were erected at the bottom of Victoria Road.

It appears that the Parish Church used to be lighted by subscription. In an old list, the total for the twelve months amounted to £16 4s. 0d., the sums subscribed ranged from 1s. to £1, many of the " big " people of that time having " little " figures appended to their names. This unique mode of procedure once led to an amusing episode. There arose some dissatisfaction regarding the lighting, and the money was not forthcoming, so one Sunday evening, late in the

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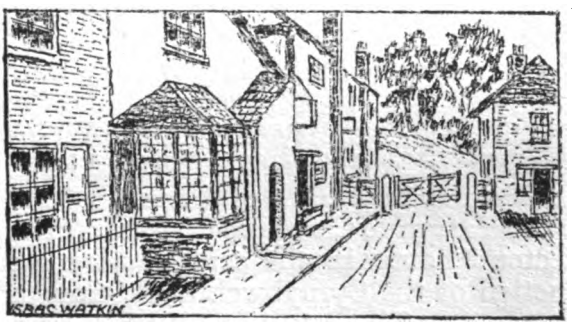
autumn, there were no lights, by the Wardens' orders. This rather puzzled the congregation, and by the time the preacher ascended the pulpit, he could hardly see to read his text, which, by the way, in those days, sometimes amounted to half a chapter. The preacher stood up, grim and stern, and administered such a rebuke to the congregation for their petty parsimony that they never forgot. On the following Sunday the proper lighting was resumed. (Owen's *Reminiscences.*)

A little beyond the old Gas Works there formerly stood another Tithe Barn for the storage of grain when tithe was paid in kind.

Porkington Terrace. These houses, standing several feet above the street level, were erected in 1840, probably upon the site of old buildings, and among the names of the occupiers are Professor Henry Collier, (dancing master) Mrs. Edmunds, Mrs. Griffith Evans, Mr. Henry Ellis, Mr. W. B. Lane (station-master), Captain Dorsett, Mr. Charles Monk (stationer,) Mrs. Sabine and Mr. Samuel Parry.



OLD FRONT OF GREYHOUND HOTEL, AND TURNPIKE GATE ACROSS MOUNT ROAD.

Greyhound Hotel. This was a good example of the old fashioned timber-framed buildings with high pitched roofs and projecting gables, but being too dilapidated for restoration the house was entirely rebuilt about twenty-five years ago by the then owner Mr. R. B. Smale.

Some of the occupiers since 1840 have been Messrs. Richard Bill (also owner), John Owen (1859),

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Thomas Jones (1864), Henry Roberts (1873), and Edward Pryce.

Park Avenue. This and the houses near the Mount Road are upon Nos. 2 (part) 7 and 11 of Map. The first of these in 1795, belonged to Mr. Robert Lloyd, Swan Hill and the others (7 and 11) were the property of the Rev. George Warrington, and which, later, must have been acquired by Mr. Lloyd, for in 1875, when it was open land to the Welsh Walls by National Schools, the whole, about eight acres in extent, was offered for sale by the Gatacre Trustees, and withdrawn, but subsequently purchased privately by Mr. Edward Jones, Brook Street House, who planned the roads and re-sold the ground as for building sites.

The street was opened for public thoroughfare in 1880. A footpath used to run from the corner of National Schools to an occupation lane fronting the Greyhound Cottages.

Among the roads specially mentioned in the Turnpikes Act of 9 George III, as requiring to be "amended, widened and repaired," were:—"the road leading from the Cross in Oswestry through the Willow Street there to Pontycyssylltau," "the road from the Cross in Oswestry through the Willow Street there over Cyrnybwch," and "the road leading from the Cross in the said town of Oswestry through the village of Selattyn to Corwen." Turnpike gates, with a Collector's house in the centre, were erected at the junction of the Cyrnybwch and Selattyn roads, Willow Street. The gate, in the first instance, was a little lower down, from what is No. 123 across to Warrington Place (now Messrs. Jones & Evans' timber yard), but at a meeting of the Trustees, held 30th July, 1772, it was ordered "That the Willow Street turnpike gate be removed opposite the turnpike house now erecting." It is believed that this house was built upon the site of one of the Almshouses and that another dwelling was put up at the north end in its stead.

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Further resolutions at the same meeting were :— " Whereas Mr. Lovett has given part of his land in front of his house in the upper end of Willow Street, and a turnpike gate is intended to be erected between his dwellinghouse and the town, ordered that all the Barley, Malt and Charcoal carried to and from his malthouse, pass through that gate free." and " The Willow street Turnpike gate is let to the Rev. Mr. Jeffreys, for fifty guineas, and he is to appoint a deputy to receive the tolls at such gate."

The Turnpike Trust expired and the Tolls were abolished in 1876.

In 1795, " The Little Meadow " (No. 9 on Map) now Town Allotments, comprising one acre two roods, belonged to Mr. Richard Price, surgeon, and was in the occupation of Mr. Evan Jones, and No. 12, now planted land and part of the Hayes, was the property of Mr. Robert Lloyd, Swan Hill.

Opposite the last mentioned, and on the north side of Mount Road, was Swan Hill (No. 13 on Map), which, with the land from that point to the Almshouses boundary, belonged to a family named Lloyd, who, early in the eighteenth century, erected a residence thereon and which they named as above. There is upon record that John Felton (Bailey Street) and Samuel Carter (" of Swan Hill, gent." and " some years waggoner from Salop to London, who died January 1764 " *Inscriptions in St. Oswald's*) exchanged lands in Porkington, with Mr. Robert Lloyd of Rhandir in Sychtyn parish, who married, firstly (in 1744) Mrs. Anne Huxley, and secondly (in 1763) Sarah, daughter of Robert Powell of Lloran Issa, Llansilin, and practised as a solicitor. He was mayor of this town in 1761, built the " Great House " (now the Vicarage and Bellan House) Church Street, for his son, and died in 1793, aged seventy-two.

After the death of Mr. Lloyd, Swan Hill was void for some time, but General Despard was occupier in 1828 and died there in 1829, aged eighty-five. In the division of the estate this portion came to the lot of Jane, daughter of Mr. Robert Lloyd, Junr., and the

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wife of Mr. John Wynne Eyton, who in 1842 sold it to Mr. Ormsby Gore (afterwards 1st Baron Harlech) for the sum of £6462. Mr. Gore afterwards demolished the buildings, cleared away the fence, and upon a site a few yards nearer the town, erected the principal entrance Lodge, now existing, the main entrance to Brogyntyn before then being upon the east side of the park on the Selattyn road about mid-way between Willow Street and Oakhurst.

The following are the particulars of Swan Hill (in the parishes of Selattyn and Oswestry) as published :—

			A.	R.	P.
House, &c.	...	...	3	2	6
Plantation	...	...	3	0	25
Dog Kennel Field	...	...	2	3	27
Little Lawn	...	...	5	3	16
Pool in ditto	...	...	1	1	0
Little Lawn	...	...	12	1	32
Avenue Field	...	...	3	3	33
Garden in ditto	...	...	0	1	4
			33	1	23

Until the eighteenth century most of the land between the Hayes and Cyrnybwch was open Common and is referred to in the parish registers as "The Mountain," the road taking a zig-zag course, and under a deed of exchange, dated 29 June, 1772 and made between Robert Lloyd and the Turnpike Trustees, a new road was formed and such part of the old road as was not required "given to the said Robert Lloyd."

Returning to Willow Street—Immediately upon the left, after entering the Selattyn road, stood the Porkington Alms Houses, on the front of which was a stone inscribed :—

Erected by Lady Eure 1623.

Repaired by Margaret Ormsby 1804.

It was a charity left by Dame Elin, widow of Sir

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Francis Eure, by will dated 25 August 1626, and consisted of six small dwellings for six poor men and six poor women of the town, to be appointed by the Bailiffs and their successors.

Dame Elin was daughter and heir of William Wynn Maurice, son of Sir William Maurice of Porkington, Clenenny and Llanddyn. She married, firstly, John Owen of Bodsilin, Carnarvonshire, and secondly, Sir Francis Eure Kt. one of the Justices of the North Wales circuit, who afterwards adopted his wife's surname of Owen. He died in 1621 and was buried at Selattyn, and Dame Elin was also buried at Selattyn, the entry in the register being as follows:—" Elin Maurice, widowe, otherwayes the Lady Owen, was buried the 14th day of September 1626."

Colonel William Owen of Brogyntyn, by Will (about 1670) appointed " my nephew William Owen of Llanddyn in the County of Denbigh " trustee of " certaine Almshouses already created (by his mother Dame Elin Eure) in Willow Street, Oswestry " together with " Roger Evance of Trevaleth, County of Salop, Esq., Maurice Lloyd of Drenewydd, gentleman, and William Griffiths of Circhley, County Anglesey." The Trustees were to have " messuages or tenements with appurtenances " in Trefonen, and to receive the rents for the support of the Almshouses, to be equally divided between them yearly. " And my Will is that my Trustees shall every third yeare out of the rents and profitts of the said premises, buy new coates for the poore men, and new gownes for the poore women, and if there be any surplusage of the profitts in the said Trustees' hands they shall employ and dispose thereof for the maintenance of the said poore men and poore women."

The last-named William Owen, was one of the burgesses of the town, and contributed towards the renewing of the Charter of Charles II. He died in 1677 and was buried at Llangollen. His second daughter, Jane, " formerly of Porkington now of Wrexham, spinster," by her Will (1733) left to " the twelve poor persons belonging to and living in the

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Almshouses in Oswestry, commonly called Porkington Almshouses the sum of 18s. to be paid to them yearly, for ever, in manner following, viz. to each poor person every Christmas Day 6d., every Easterday 6d., and every Whit Sunday 6d." In 1805, Mrs. M. Ormsby directed that the last bequest (18s.) should be increased to sixty shillings per annum. (Gwenrhian Gwynedd's *History of Selattyn.*) It does not appear that either of the foregoing directions were carried out, and as there was no available fund to provide for the maintenance of the houses, the owners of Porkington, in consideration of their voluntarily keeping the premises in repair, and supplying the occupants with certain pecuniary allowances, were allowed to appoint.

As the houses had become very dilapidated the premises were disposed of in 1911 to the adjoining owner, Lord Harlech, the (reported) terms being the payment by him of £500, the giving up of the site of the two lower houses and that of the old toll house, adjoining, to the Town Council, for the purpose of widening the entrances of the Mount and Oakhurst roads, and the giving of a new site consisting of half-an-acre of land, part of the White Lion Croft, for the re-erection of such Almshouses. In the following year, the Town Council, with the above £500, augmented by a grant from the Smale bequest erected ten up to date residences upon the new site, which opens out into Arundel Road, and also carried out the improvements at the top of Willow Street. The gate-posts at entrance in Arundel Road are inscribed

"Smales Cottage Homes. Erected 1912."

Upon the east side of Oakhurst road, at the rear of No. 13, was the first Primitive Methodist Meeting House, marked upon the Map of 1833 as "The Ranters Chapel." This was built in 1828 upon the site of a cold plunge bath, that was kept by John and Nanny Edwards, who then removed to the Gardener's Cottage in Cae Glas. Soon after the erection of the Meeting House, Mr. William Doughty, founder of Primitive Methodism in the town, gave up the travelling ministry, got married, and being a baker by trade,

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settled down at No. 13, where he carried on business for thirty-five years. He died in 1863, aged sixty-six, and was buried at the Cemetery, that being the first Nonconformist funeral conducted there.

LADY BURE'S ALMS-HOUSES, TURNPIKE GATE ACROSS SELATTYN ROAD (demolished), & THE OLD WHITE LION HOTEL, WILLOW ST.

Upper White Lion. This is another half-timber house, with a low roof and a ground floor some inches below the level of side path, but much of its antiquity is concealed by a plastered front. Its doors and windows are modernised. There is no record as to when it became a public house, but John Hughes, mercer, mayor 1742, is said to be " of the family of the Upper White Lion." The occupiers traced are Messrs. Richard Hughes (1780), Richard Hughes Junr. (1828), Alexander Hughes (died in 1857), Mrs. Mary Hughes, widow, and Mr. Robert Roberts (1870).

Oak Street. No. 25, adjoining the last-mentioned premises, was formerly a public house known by the sign of " Horse and Jockey," and in 1852 was in the occupation of Mr. John Roberts, father-in-law of Mr. Richard Jones, fellmonger. It had but a short existence, for Mr. Roberts removed to Oak House, taking the sign with him, and it has only recently been destroyed.

No. 13, Oak House (Mr. Gaius Evans). This with the Cottages (now let into skinyard) and " Londonderry Field," No. 16 on Map, belonged to Mr.

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Robert Lloyd of Swan Hill and until quite recently went under the name of Downderry, whence came the name of Emma Downderry given to Mrs. Emma Roberts, a noted character who resided here some sixty years ago. The story goes that towards the middle of the eighteenth century, a London Milkman took the house and land belonging, established a dairy, and called it "The London Dairy." This in course of time became "Londonderry" and finally, for brevity sake "Downderry." (*Bye-gones.*) The occupier following Mr. John Roberts was Mr. Richard Jones who died in 1891 aged eighty-seven, and he was succeeded by his son Mr. John Jones who died in 1902.

Adjoining is the Tannery, established by the Rev. Foulk Parry in the beginning of last century. Mr. Parry was a Calvinistic Methodist minister without any ministerial charge, but associated himself with the Welsh at Zion Chapel, and he also held Bible Classes in a warehouse attached to the works. He died in 1842, aged forty-two, and was interred in the Zion graveyard. The tannery business was continued by his widow, Mrs. Mary Parry, with her sons, Mr. Thomas Pryce Parry (afterwards of Plasffynnon), and Mr. Samuel Parry, who lived in Porkington Terrace. Mrs. Parry died in 1859, and both her sons in 1893, when her grandson, the late Mr. Sam Parry Jones, of Brynhafod, succeeded.

Until the seventies Oak Street did not go beyond the Tannery, Castle Street being reached by a foot path across two fields (Nos. 17 and 18 on Map) that in 1795 belonged to the Rev. J. Venables. There was however a short opening from Castle Street, called Lower Chapel Street, wherein the first house (now No. 3, Brighton Place) was erected by Mr. Edward Davies, builder, in 1867.

Returning to Willow Street—A row of twelve houses stood upon the left, stretching from near the drinking trough to opposite No. 107 where there is a change in the boundary wall of Messrs. Jones & Evans' timber yard. These were known as Warrington Place, the lower one being a beerhouse called "The Mitre,"

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in 1845 occupied by Edward Morris, and in 1862 by Samuel Francis. The houses were generally occupied by hawkers and a low class of Irish people, who frequently had drinking bouts and consequently were an annoyance to the whole neighbourhood. At that time the water from the Park flowed openly along a ditch in front of these houses, the Inn being approached by a handbridge and up several steps. The site was put up for sale in 1868 and purchased by Mr. Ormsby Gore. In order to be rid of the undesirable tenants it is said that an army of workmen arrived on the ground one morning and in a comparatively short time demolished the entire block.

Just below this spot was the Willow Street public well. Part of the arch remains and is visible in the stone wall adjoining side path opposite No. 4, Porkington Terrace.

No. 106 was also a public house known by the sign of the " Square and Compass," from which came the name of Compass Yard, by which the Cottages adjacent are known. A stone-built cottage at the rear (now open to Oak Street) has on the east gable a stone inscribed

M
R.J
1842

Nos. 102 and 104. The ground upon which these have been erected was, until recently, a bark yard, for Richard Griffiths (1828), John Thomas (1845) and William Hughes.

Nos. 100, 98, and 96. Upon the front of these cottages is a stone inscribed

E
S.E
1784.

but who are represented by these letters has not been discovered. Adjoining is the tannery, which, in 1840, was worked by Mr. Abraham Bowyer Mytton, grandfather of Mr. Charles I. Littlehales, The Firs. Mr. Bowyer, who resided at Oak Cottage, was a native of Welshpool, and married Jemima, daughter of Mr.

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John Buckley and Sarah (Bickerton) his wife, of Earleshill, Pontesbury. After Mr. Mytton's death the business was continued for a short time by his widow. It was afterwards taken over by Mr. William Hughes, and the yard was closed upon his death in 1889.

No. 94 was for a short time occupied by Mrs. Jemima Mytton, milliner, and afterwards became the residence of Mr. David Jones, Junr., dairyman, who married Frances, daughter of Mr. William Doughty, 13, Oakhurst Road. After a time he acquired the adjoining property, and converted No. 92 into a shop for his own occupation.

Mr. David Jones, Senr., also a dairyman, lived at the rear of No. 94, and was the first to engage a vehicle for the purpose of taking milk around the town, the practice previous to then was for the vendor to carry it in tins suspended from a yoke upon the shoulders. Mr. Jones was usually dressed in a short smock, and when a widower, was assisted in business by his housekeeper. One morning, the milk cart was brought to a stand near St. Oswald's gates, and after placing the cans in safety, both parties proceeded to the Church, just as they were, and after going through the usual marriage ceremony, returned to the milk cart and went their round as if nothing had happened.

No. 90. Here lived Mr. Edward Connolly, a well-known fish dealer and for many years a vendor of nuts and oranges at fairs and sports taking place at Oswestry and the surrounding villages.

No. 84. Many of the older generation will remember Betty Vaughan, who kept a toffee shop here.

No. 96, Castle Street, although upon the corner and partly in Willow Street, is counted as in Castle Street. The occupiers have been Messrs. William Turner, bellhanger, Henry Jones (son of Mr. David Jones, dairyman), butcher, T. Richards of Llansilin, butcher, Arthur Barrett, butcher (who removed to 41, Willlow Street), Edward Edwards, formerly of Osborne Hotel, and David Roberts, who had a second-hand book shop in Cross Street.

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CASTLE STREET.

We now turn into Castle Street, but which up to a hundred years ago was known as Castle lane, and the first building upon the left is the Castle Fields Infant School. This was formerly a Ragged School, the corner stone of which was laid in 1873 by Lord Kenyon, on behalf of his mother (the Hon. Mrs. Kenyon (Hon. Mrs. Bulkeley Owen), and who at the same time declared that the building, when completed, was for the free education of poor children. Up to this time such children received their education in a room fitted up for the purpose, in the yard of the Golden Lion Inn, Pool Road.

In an old map of the town a mud pool is shown upon what is now the play ground of the School, and was formed by the overflow water from the Swan Hill fish pond (No. 15 on Map), over an acre in extent, situate in the park just opposite Mr. Bradley's residence, Oakhurst Road. The drain conveying that water now passes under the Selattyn road to the eastern side between Beechwood and Maesyrhaf, thence to the yard of No. 13 Oak Street and the Tannery. In olden days the water flowed on to the mud pit by the Infant School, thence openly along what is now Castle Street, (for the only houses upon that side of the town, less than a hundred years ago were Nos. 43 and 45), the land being afterwards clear down to the corner of Llwyn road near Cambrian Inn. The water was confined to a course until it reached the site of the Castle Hotel, where it broke lose so that the ground at the back of Parry's buildings and Cripplegate was a swamp. It again became confined by the old Rope Walk, entering Beatrice Street opposite the Wesleyan Chapel; and was referred to by Harrison, in 1564, thus :—" There is another brooke over whose course the Baderich gate standeth and therefore called Baderich Brooke."

Returning along Castle Street we come, upon the left, to St. Nicholas' Mission Room, erected in 1884, which stood within the precints of the Castle, and wherein, during troublesome times, religious services

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were held. In an inventory (preserved in the Tower Rolls) of the contents of Oswestry Castle taken in 1389, there is included "*In the Chapel*, 1 vessel for the holy water, 1 missall, 1 gilt chalice, 2 linen towels with a frontal, 2 surplices, 2 chasubles with apparels, 1 hand mill for grinding corn." Also "that the said Earl (Richard earl of Arundel) was seized as in fee of the advowson of the free chapel of St. Nicholas within the Castle of Oswaldestre, worth 46s. 8d." Its endowment was derived from "Castle Croft, a croft under Wynne Wallis, a croft called Chykenwall and the field called Cadogan field"—(Eyton)—lands that cannot now be identified.

In 1868 an iron structure, called the "Tabernacle Church of the Free Methodists" was opened here. This body previously worshipped in Gibralter yard, Church Street, and separate services were discontinued in 1880.

At the junction of this street with Castle Street we come to the new Primitive Methodist Church. As already stated, the first Meeting place of this sect was upon Oakhurst Road, but that structure soon became inadequate, and a more commodious building had to be thought of. There was considerable trouble in getting a site, but eventually the ground upon which the Victoria Rooms now stands was secured. Against this, however, there was a strong aversion in the mind of one of the principal residents in Lower Brook Street. Mr. Doughty, the leader of the Methodists, was appointed to wait upon the old gentleman, and the result of the interview was that if another site could be procured any extra expense in connection therewith would be paid. Suitable ground was obtained here, and the extra cost, amounting to nearly £100, duly paid. The new building was erected with all possible diligence and opened in December, 1840, Above the entrance door was inserted a stone inscribed—

EBENEZER CHAPEL.
BUILT BY THE PRIMITIVE METHODISTS,
A.D. 1840.

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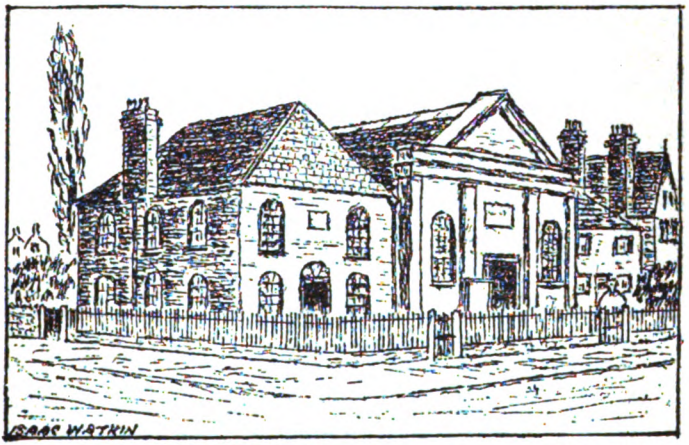
Sufficient land for a graveyard was also purchased.

The space between the Chapel and Castle Street was utilised for the erection of a schoolroom, the the corner stone of which was laid in 1868. This building communicated with the Chapel, and behind it was a landmark in the form of a Lombardy poplar. In 1890, further land, adjoining the graveyard, became available,and upon that the present schoolroom was erected, and opened in 1891, the total cost thereof being about £1300.



EBENEZER CHAPEL AND SCHOOL-ROOM (Demolished 1899.)

In 1898 " Ebenezer Chapel " and the schoolroom of 1868, were taken down, and the memorial stones of a new building were laid on June 16th, completed and opened for public worship on 21st March, 1899, and from the " Ranter's Chapel," or Meeting House of 1828, and "Ebenezer Chapel" of 1840, was designated the Oswestry Primitive Methodist Church.

Until about the sixties the only means of communication between this part of Castle Street and Bailey Head, was by a private occupation road, but the Trustees of the late Mr. George Venables, who owned the land part of No. 19 on Map, made an offer of such road to the town, which was accepted by the Street Commissioners, and what is now called Chapel Street duly constructed.

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No. 6, Chapel Street, was the residence of the Rev. Foulk Parry before mentioned, and also, for many years, of Mr.William Arnold, china dealer, until his removal to Orchard Street.

No. 65, Castle Street (Mr. Roberts' Printing Works). This building was formerly the Welsh Calvinistic Methodist Chapel. The site—two cottages in the occupation of Catherine Evans, widow, and Susannah Evans,widow, and a piece of garden ground, described as being situate " upon the north east of Castle Lane leading from a certain place or street called Willow Street," was in September 1813, acquired from Mr. Edward Rogers, blacksmith ,for £250, the second parties to the deed being the Rev. Thomas Charles of Bala, the Rev. Simon Lloyd of Plasyndre, Bala, Abraham Jones of Llanfyllin, shopkeeper, Evan Griffiths of Main, Meifod, farmer, Owen Jones of Gelli, Llanfair, gentleman, William Jones of Dolyfonddu, Llanwrin, gentleman, Thomas Pryce of Gwernypant and John Evans of Burgeddin, farmer. The first portion of the chapel was erected that year, and enlarged in 1824, also a house in the rear for Mrs. Susannah Evans (Modryb Susan) one of the founders, who occupied until her death in 1832 at the age of eighty-seven. Religious services were continued here until the completion of the larger building erected at Gatacre Place in 1837.

No. 67 was the residence and shop of Mrs. Titley, who catered for the children of sixty years ago.

Nos. 75 and 77. It would appear that these were the first buildings erected in this street, for as early as 1708 a dwelling house and malthouse here were sold by John Thomas, glover, to Richard Payne, glover. Mr. Payne married Martha, daughter of Mr. Evan Evans, grocer, their son being Mr. Edward Wynne Evans, mayor 1782, postmaster, mercer, and treasurer to the Oswestry Incorporation at the end of the eighteenth century, and who transformed the malthouse into a cottage.

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WILLOW STREET—*continued.*

Upon entering Willow Street, we come to where there was a bridge, similar to that by the Coach and Dogs, for crossing the open watercourse. It appears to have been in existence in 1801, for at the Quarter Sessions held in July of that year the following complaint was made :—" The Surveyors of Highways are presented (indicted) for not placing posts and rails at the side of a platt or bridge near the White Lion in Willow Street, the same being dangerous to passengers."

No. 80. Two Cottages formerly stood upon the site of this, in one of which lived Mr. William Plimmer, brazier. About 1907 the property was acquired by the late Councillor Joseph Vaughan, and whilst preparing for the foundation of the present building, the excavators came across a portion of the old town walls.

No. 76. This place, which in 1845, belonged to Mrs. Elizabeth Lowe, was once a beer house known as " The Nag's Head." In the year named it was kept by Mr. Edward Rogers, and lastly by Mr. John Edwards, who afterwards removed to Cae Glas Cottage.

No. 72. Mr. William Hodges was the occupier in 1845. From about 1854 to 1871, Miss Elizabeth A. Roberts (now of West Street) daughter of Mr. Edward Roberts, corn and flour merchant, Bailey Street, conducted a School here, wherein many of the older generation of to-day received their early education.

Nos. 70—64, Castle Buildings. The foundation stone of these houses was laid in 1803. Among those who have resided here may be named : Dr. Charles Humphreys, Miss Henrietta Davies (1828), Miss Asterley (who kept a Boarding and Day School for girls), succeeded by Miss Goldsboro and (in 1874) the Misses Hoult, Mr. Thomas Pryce, ironmonger, Mr. William Roberts, solicitor, Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, Junr., solicitor, Mr. John Jones (who afterwards removed to Bellan House), Mr. Edward Jones, cabinet maker, Mr. John Thomas, maltster, Dr. Coltart, Mr. Stephen Donne and Dr. Beresford.

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No. 62, Castle House, belonged to and was occupied by the Rev. Joseph Venables, rector of Erbistock, 1777, and incumbent of Morton 1783—1797, and who died here on 14th August, 1810, aged eighty four.

This Mr. Venables with his father Joseph Venables, and his five brothers, John, Richard, Lazarus, Edward and George, and their issue, were made freemen of the borough in 1755. Mr. Venables was succeeded by his nephew, the Rev. Joseph Venables, Ll.D. (son of Mr. Lazarus Venables and Mary, daughter and heir of Richard Jones of Woodhill), incumbent of Morton 1797—1823. In 1791 he presented the borough with two fac-simile silver drinking cups four inches high. He married in 1805, Mary, daughter of Mr. Edward Rowland of Gardden Lodge, Ruabon, and died in 1823 being succeeded here by his son, Mr. Rowland Jones Venables, who in 1837 married Harriet, daughter of Mr. Edgar Corrie of Arlington Manor, Bucks (she was aunt to the late Mr. Arthur Wynne Corrie of Park Hall), Mr. Venables left here for the Quinta, but in 1853 he purchased Mount Zion from the Bonnor family, and upon its site erected an entirely new residence now called Oakhurst. He was an officer in the North Shropshire Yeomanry and a Justice of the Peace for the Counties of Denbigh and Salop. He died, without issue, May 15th, 1868, and upon the death of his widow, in 1895, was succeeded at Oakhurst by his nephew, Mr. Rowland George Venables, son of Mr. Joseph George Venables, by Caroline, daughter of Colonel Sandys of Llanarth, near Helston. Mr. Venables, who married Mrs. Hook, widow of the late Rev. James Hook, vicar of Morton, was deputy chairman of Denbighshire Quarter Sessions, vice-chairman of the Salop County Council and chairman of the Oswestry County Bench. He died at Oakhurst in March, 1920, aged seventy-four.

Mr. R. J. Venables was succeeded here by Dr. Edward Bennion (who afterwards removed to Summer Hill), Mr. William Edwards of The Queen's

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Hotel (Mrs. Edwards kept a school for girls), Miss Atkins, Dr. John Wynne, Mr. Henry Davies, town clerk, and Dr. T. Hammond Williams, who died in 1916.

No. 60. About seventy years ago a commercial school was conducted upon these premises by Mr. John Hughes.

No. 58. A public library existed here for a few months in 1822, Later the front portion was used as a stamp office, the sub-distributor being Mr. Edward Williams, solicitor. The office was afterwards removed to Gibralter Buildings, and Mr. William Hughes, tanner, became tenant. He died in 1889.

There is a commodious room at the rear, wherein for many years, Mr. Richard Richards kept a commercial school. Mr. Richards was also a poet and published a small volume under the title of "Wayside Musings." In 1860 the room was taken by the Welsh Baptists for holding religious services, the first baptism in connection therewith took place in the English chapel in March of that year. In 1870 Mr. (afterwards Doctor) Gethin Davies (then classical teacher at the Llangollen Baptist College) undertook the care of the church, and his ordination as minister took place in this room. In 1872 they acquired and removed to a building in the Rope Walk, known as the "Independent Methodist Chapel," since when this room has been the meeting place of the Plymouth Brethren.

No. 56, Woolpack Inn, is an old fashioned house with low rooms. It is approached by a number of steps as were other houses upon this side of the street many years ago, as a protection against damage from the overflow of a stream which came that way. In the parish registers the house is sometimes called "The Pack Horse." The following are some of the occupiers :—Messrs Richard Jones (1720), Edward Jones (1756), Thomas Lloyd (1759), Richard Hughes (1764), John Lewis (1794), Edward Jones (1804), David Jones (1828), Richard Edwards (1845), John Preece (1852), Edward Jones (1856), (Mrs.) Ann Thomas

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(1859), Richard Evans (" Mervinian " 1875), David Roberts (1876), Sampson Bowyer (1877), J. T. Winterbottom (1879), David Vaughan (1880), Allen Arthur (1881), C. W. Harris (1882), Robert Matthews and Thomas Caswell.

No. 54 (Pearl Office). Upon this ground and standing back from the street, there formerly stood a couple of straw-thatched cottages of the wattle and daub style, in which, about eighty years ago lived Margaret Martin and Thomas Thomas, and afterwards Mary Leake and Thomas Fitzgerald. The buildings were demolished about 1860 by Mr. Richard Morris, plumber, and the present shop with dwelling house, erected in a line with the adjoining buildings. The following, principally grocers, carried on business here :—Messrs. David Thomas, Evan Price (1867), George Wells (1870), Richard Thomas (Woolpack Stores), Ernest Barnett and William Gough.

No. 52 was the business place of Mr. Richard Morris, plumber, which concern after his death was continued by his widow and son. The latter were succeeded by Mr. Charles Carrington who died in 1872. It was during his tenancy that the shop window was fitted with an aquarium, the fish in which delighted the children of that day. Mrs. Carrington with her sons remained until 1880, when the business was disposed of to Mr. George Tyley.

Nos. 50, 48, 46, and 44. have all been refronted. Richard Jones, town crier, lived at No. 50, John Connolly, fish dealer, at No. 46, and Edward Roberts, cooper and for upwards of 55 years a deacon in Hermon Chapel, at No. 44. These houses, and that adjoining the Butcher's Arms, and Arthur and Fitzalan Courts, in the rear, are all timber-framed and of an ancient date.

ARTHUR STREET.

Turning upon the left we enter Street or Stryt Arthur, otherwise Arthur Street, otherwise Butcher's Arms Shut.

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Butcher's Arms Inn. With the exception of the part fronting Willow Street, recently rebuilt in modern style, these half-timbered premises come within the oldest in the town. They agree in many respects with the Bell Inn and Upper White Lion. The first mention of the building is in connection with the migration of the Independent Church from Sweeney in 1691, but it was probably a meeting house in connection with that place as far back as 1672, for a royal license permitting public worship, and bearing the autograph of Charles II was granted on the 25th of July of that year, and which reads thus :—" We have allowed and We do hereby allow of a Room or Rooms in the house of Hugh Edwards at Oswestry, Shropshire, to be a place for the use of such as do not conform to the Church of England, who are of the perswasion commonly called Congregationall to meet and assemble, in order to their public Worship and Devotion " &c. There is no record as to the original terms upon which this property was taken, but among the Old Chapel documents there is one, dated 1695, endorsed "Ye Chappel lease for 21 years," by which Mr. Charles Noden of London, merchant, on the one side, and Edward Rogers of Oswestry, butcher, on the other, agree to a lease of the premises, which are described as being " in a certaine streete there called Wolliow Streete " then in the possession of Edward Gryffythes and Edward Rogers of the yearly rental of £2. In December, 1715, the members purchased the property, the parties to the deed being Charles Noden of Woodmanton, Surrey, and Mary his wife of the one part and John Felton of Oswestry, Salop, brazier, Edward Rogers of Oswestry, butcher, and Nathaniel Edwards of same place, dyer, of the other part, the premises passing being " All those two Tofts, messuages, houses, lands or tenements, stables, gardens and back sides, and the seat or pew in the Church of Oswestry also belonging wherein William Rowlands and Owen George dwelt, and then in the tenure or occupation of Edward Griffiths and Richard Pope and situate lying and being in Woollow Street in Oswestry aforesaid."

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About this time some repairs were carried out, the account of which is headed thus :—" Accompts of James Felton whatt hee layd out for ye repairing of Meeting house 1715 July—Nov. £20 and which was allowed by ye congregation 25 March 1716."

The second Toft mentioned in the deed of 1715 is now a brewhouse and will be remembered as the residence, some fifty years ago, of Mr. Charles Austin, jeweller. It appears that the church meetings were held in a room or loft on the first floor reaching over street passage and front bar parlour of the inn, and which is now partitioned into three bedrooms.

About 1749 the building had " gone to decay," and in 1750 the new chapel was opened, after when the meeting place was again converted into a private house, and the rent thereof, as also of the cottage adjoining and belonging, applied in support of the Minister.

In the Records of proceedings at the Court-Leet, held in 1748 " the Dissenting Minister was presented for not repairing the pavement by the Meeting House," and again in 1751—" We present Mr. Thomas Morgan, Dissenting Minister, for digging a well on the lord's waste in Street Arthur, being dangerous to passengers."

The house, upon the Willow Street side, was approached by a flight of steps, but by the raising of the side path and lowering of the floor of the front bar parlour, these have been reduced.

It is not upon record when the place was opened as a public house, but at a meeting of the church (Old Chapel) members held in October, 1827, it was resolved that the prorpety should be offered for sale by public auction, and which was accordingly done in the following month, when the highest bidder was Mr. John Roberts, on behalf of Mr. Alexander Green Boughton of Manchester. Six years afterwards it was acquired by Mr. Watkin Foulkes of Bryncoch, subsequent owners being Mr. Thomas Pugh, shoemaker, Mrs. Maria Pugh his widow, who died 1873, and Mr. David Reynolds Hughes, who died 1908.

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Among the occupiers, as publicans, have been Messrs. Edward Lewis (1783 and probably the first)—Richard Howell (1794), Thomas Haycocks (1805), John Roberts (1827), John Jones (1834), James Lowe Misses Richards, Pantglas (1850), Richard Benbow, George Bennion (1858), Edward Davies (1864), John Rogers (1867), William Duncan (1871), Hugh Howard, Richard Bather, Alexander Mansfield, William Brown (1876), and Robert Morris (1877).

In 1780 there were no dwellings upon the left between the Butcher.s Arms Cottage (now Brewhouse) and the Old Chapel graveyard.

Old Chapel. As before stated, the meeting house (now Butcher's Arms) having "gone to decay," a "building and malt mill lying in Oswestry near the Castle Hill," were in 1748, purchased from "Richard Thomas of Oswestry, gentleman," upon which to erect a more convenient building. The deed bears date 1749 and states that Mr. Thomas did covenant with (Rev.) Thomas Morgan to convey the "Baily Molt Mill" in the possession of John Evans and garden attached thereto, then held by John Chidlow, to "Thomas Hunt of Boreatton, Esquire, Thomas Hunt of Shrewsbury, Esquire, Ebenezer Keay of Whitchurch, Clerk, Job Orton of Shrewsbury, clerk, John Yates of Whitchurch, mercer, Samuel Harrop of Shrewsbury, brazier, Samuel Bennion of Shrewsbury, grocer, John Felton of Oswestry, brazier, William Evans of Llanfyllin, mercer, John Wright of Wrexham, tanner, Edward Edwards of Oswestry, chandler, and William Bickerton of Oswestry, gardener." Upon this site was erected the first Nonconformist church in Oswestry, and which was opened for Divine Worship in 1750, the necessary licence being granted at the Shropshire Quarter Sessions of July in that year. The licence (which is preserved) reads "It is ordered by this Court that the new Chappel situate in Arthur Street in Oswestry in this County be recorded as a place of religious worship for his Majesty's Protestant subjects dissenting from the Church of England" &c. In a few years afterwards

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the church assumed the Independent or Congregational form of government, upon which the attendants became so numerous that in 1783 the building had to be enlarged.

A Sunday school had been established here some years previously, and earlier than that founded by Robert Raikes at Gloucester, the centenary of which was celebrated in England and Wales in 1881. In July, 1794, the chapel was enlarged by the erection of a gallery, and in 1808, by a considerable addition, and it was then, and in this building, that the first public elementary school in the town, was founded by the members of the congregation. In a copy of the Report, dated 1809, it is stated that " The Managers of the Charity Schools connected with the Old Chapel in this town, reflect with thankfulness . . . . . in the work in which they have been engaged. In addition to the Sunday and Evening Schools, they have established a Day School, in which 83 scholars are now taught according to Mr. Lancaster's method of Education." The Whittington Register contains an entry, " 1810. Feby. The Dissenters of Oswestry adopt the new mode (Lancasters) of instructions, and make use of the gallery in their Chapel for that purpose."

A Charity school for boys, kept in a small room in the churchyard was thereupon removed to the town hall (Powis hall), but in Nov. of the same year (1810), there is a further entry in the Register :—" The Directors of the house of Industry admit day scholars into their School—The Charity School held in the town hall removed to it. This plan fails in consequence of the dissenters admitting the children into their School."

By 1830 the Old Chapel had become too small for the congregation that attended, and, with the exception of part of one wall, was pulled down and rebuilt. This latter building served until 1872, when, after extensive alterations, it was transferred to the Sunday School, a new building having been erected upon an adjoining site. The identical pulpit, in which

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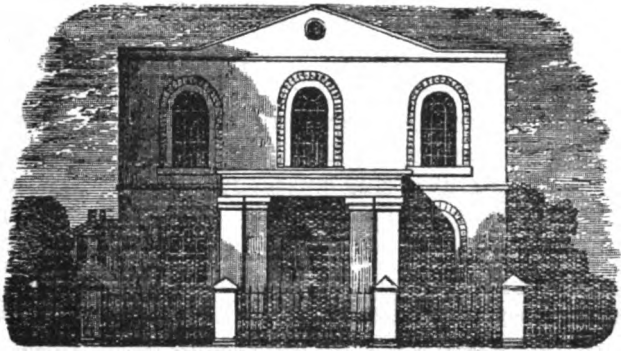
the eminent John Howe preached, is preserved in the old vestry here.



THE OLD CHAPEL, 1855.

A former pastor of this chapel, the Rev. John Whitridge, who died in 1826, is said to be the first, or one of the first, of the country ministers who took to London a collection for the London Missionary Society, on its formation, and he was present (riding to London on horseback) at one of the first meetings of that Society, in September, 1795. His predecessor here, the Rev. Edward Williams, D.D., had written the first appeal for the new Society.

No. 11, Arthur Street, was formerly the residence of the chapel minister. Miss Whitridge had a boarding school here in 1822. The widow of the late Mr. John Davies, Golden Ball, Church Street, mother of Messrs. John Whitridge Davies and Abraham Davies also lived here. She was the eldest daughter of the Rev. John Whitridge (before mentioned) minister of the Old Chapel from 1792 to 1826, by his wife, Miss Phillips, of Tynrhos. Mrs. Davies was left a widow in 1857, and lived in her latter days in the house where she was born, and there she died in January, 1883, in the eighty-fifth year of her age.

No. 13, another part of the Chapel house was the residence of Mr. Philip Henry Dicker, a genial doctor, well-known in the town, and (says Mr. T. Owen) "everlastingly taking snuff as he sauntered along." He died in 1873.

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Returning down Arthur Street. In 1789 the only buildings between site of Art School and the stone-built cottages opposite Butcher's Arms Inn, were two semi-detached cottages fronting the Old Chapel, and now forming Nos. 24 and 26.

The Art School was formerly the British (elementary) School, erected in 1841, at a cost, including the site, of about £800, the contractor being Mr. James Vaughan of Beatrice Street. The cost was subscribed chiefly by the members of the congregation assembling at the old Chapel opposite. The building was held in trust " for the education of adults, and children only, of both sexes, of the labouring, manufacturing and other classes in the town and parish of Oswestry and in the several parishes adjoining." The system of education was conducted on the principles of the British and Foreign School Society, no denominational catechism or dogma was permitted to be taught, but the Holy Scriptures were in daily use. It ended its career upon the opening, in January, 1880, of the new Board or Council Schools in Albert Road. After being used for various purposes the building was ultimately converted into an Art School for the town. Above the entrance door is a stone inscribed

W. A. Lewis, Esq.
Mayor 1898.

No. 18 was the office of Mr. William Hayward (son of Mr. John Hayward, solicitor, mayor 1841), mayor 1860, and afterwards of Messrs. Hayward & Davies, Mr. Henry Davies (town clerk), Messrs. Davies & Jackson, and Messrs. Jackson & Ferrington, all solicitors. Previous to the building being refronted, the entrance door adjoined No. 20.

No. 16, now occupied with No. 18, was the residence of Robert Thomas, butcher. There was formerly a cottage at the rear of this place, occupied by Dinah Elliott, where in 1823, a little Primitive Methodist church was established, and which removed to the Meeting house, Oakhurst road, in 1828.

In an advertisement that appeared in 1821 of the

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sale of five houses " in or near a passage called Street Arthur leading from Willow Street to the Town Hall " (Powis Hall) it is stated there would also be sold a small building adjoining the said houses " now used for keeping a sedan-chair."

At the bottom of this street there are some more old half-timber cottages, and another (No. 38), many years in the occupation of Thomas Pugh, shoemaker, facing Willow Street, which internally (with little exception) remain in their original form, and judging by the size and soundness of the material in their construction, they are likely to outlast the majority of the recently erected houses in the town.

WILLOW STREET—*continued.*

No. 36. Many years ago this house was known as " The Brown Cow," from the occupier exercising his right under an ancient prescription, of selling beer upon special occasions without a license, by simply suspending a bush of holly above the front door.

No. 30 was formerly a private house, the last to occupy it as such being Mrs. Mary Parry, widow of the Rev. Foulk Parry. She was succeeded by Miss Worton, stay maker, and, in 1870, by Mr. Frederick Corbett, boot dealer.

No. 28 (Mr. Hughes, Florist). In the fifties this was occupied by a draper, who, to get out of some difficulty, it is said, started a fire upon the premises and then absconded. Fortunately it was extinguished before much damage happened, but the place was for many years afterwards called " the Burnt Shop." The next occupier was Miss Richards (of Pantglas), who came from the Butcher's Arms, and kept a small grocer's shop. Then (1858) came Mr. Thomas James, a native of Pentregwyn, Llansilin, using it as a Temperance house. Mr. James did much during the sixties in restoring old, and erecting new houses in the town. He left here about 1872 and was

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succeeded by Mr. Maurice Jones and Mr. Richard Jones, father of Mr. J. R. Jones, London House.

No. 26 (Mr. Hughes, V.S.), was in 1845 a private dwelling house belonging to and in the occupation of Mr. John Hayward, solicitor, who was succeeded by Miss Leigh. In 1865 Mr. Thomas Mitchell, from Gibralter Buildings, opened as a tailor's establishment. He died in 1884.

No. 24 (Mr. Thos. Evans). The occupier about seventy years ago was Miss Mary Worton, straw bonnet maker, who was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Davies, butcher, who married Ann, daughter of Mrs. Lewis, Upper Brook Street. He retired in 1884, and went to reside to the Rod Meadows, but owing to failing health, returned to the town, where he died in 1905.

Nos. 22 and 20 were formerly three dwellings belonging to Mr. John Farmer.

Adjoining No. 20 were two small shops, a wide yard entrance and an old fashioned public house called The Grapes, forming part of the estate of Mr. William Griffiths, mayor, 1766, which, except No. 18 (Mrs. James) were demolished and the ground utilized to enlarge the Butcher's market and form part of New Street.

The shop next the Grapes was, in 1845, occupied by an Italian named Peter Poizzi, a dealer in toys, weather glasses and curiosities. A writer in *Bye Gones* says it was rumoured that for a George III guinea, then much sought after, Peter could teach anyone to speak Italian, "like a native," in one lesson, and that a certain would-be-linguist, anxious to surprise his sleeping partner with a specimen of his attainments in a foreign tongue, called upon Peter for the "lesson," when he was directed to add the letters *io* to each English word, and that would be Italian. Arriving at home he found his wife had locked him out and gone to bed, so he called beneath her casement, "Come down my little wife*io*." A large frilled nightcap, supposed to contain a head, protruded from an upper window, from which issued the lugubrious

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190 **ENTRANCE TO MARKET HALL, The Cross, 1855.** Page 185.

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speech, "What's the matter with you fool*io*?" Our hero slapped his thigh in an ecstasy of delight, and exclaimed, "Why, bless my soul*io*, here's my little wife*io* can speak Italian*io* as well as I who gave a guinea*io*." Mr. Poizzi died in 1850 aged seventy-six.

The premises next the Old Market Hall were the Grapes Inn. The place many years ago was known as the Little Cross Keys. There is mention of it in the parish register of 1688, the entry being "John Hughes of Cross Keyes, Williow St. bur." and also against the names of John Jones in 1731 and William Ethelstone in 1794, and a Shrewsbury paper of 1821 contained the following, "Died May 8, Mr. Hughes of the Cross Keys, Willow Street, Oswestry." The most recent occupiers comprise Mrs. Eleanor Jones (1862), Messrs. Joseph Jackson (from the Fox Inn, 1862), George Bennion (1869), and Enoch Evans. The property was brought into the market in 1878, and a few years later demolished as before stated.

No. 10 (Mr. Bason). A low picturesque building of bricks and timber, with projecting gables, its ground floor considerably below the street level, and without any side path in front thereof, stood here up to 1872. In the early part of last century it belonged to the Venables family, and at that time comprised two dwellings in the respective occupations of Jane Phipps and John Francis. About 1828 Mr. Lewis Edwards, maltster, acquired the property, occupying one house and Mr. John Yates the other, until 1835, when Mr. James Williams, butcher, became owner, and converted the dwelling next the Cross into a public house, which was named the Owen Glyndwr, and let to Mr. David Jones. It had but a short existence, and in 1851 the block was acquired by Mr. John Roberts who opened as greengrocer and seedsman, continuing until 1862, when Mr. Moses Vincent took over the business, adding to it that of a provision dealer. In 1872 the block was demolished, when about 12½ square yards of the ground was sold to the Corporation for the purposes of making a side path

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and widening the street, a new shop being erected in line with the adjoining property, upon the remainder of the site. Mr. Vincent occupied the new premises up to 1877, when he was succeeded by Mr. A. B. Whitfield.

Nos. 8, 6, and 4 were rebuilt in 1845, by Mr. Richard Cross.

No. 8, London House, was in 1850 occupied by Mr. Thomas Williams (known as Twmin), butcher, and early in the sixties by Messrs. Davies & Williams, drapers, of Gibralter House, who were succeeded in 1866 by Messrs. Thomas & Whitfield (Mr. Edward Thomas, of Priddbwll, and Mr. Edward Whitfield, of Bronafon), who then started an ironmongery business, but they only remained one year, and then removed to No. 7, The Cross. The premises were afterwards occupied in the drapery and outfitting business by Mr. John Lloyd, who came here from London House, Bailey Street, where he had been doing a grocery trade.

No. 6, Victoria House. After being erected in 1845, this was for some years a private house, attached to No. 4, the upper rooms being occupied by Mrs. Richard Cross. Upon being converted into a shop, the first occupier was Mr. Evan Evans, grocer, who held until 1866, when the three houses came into the market and this was secured by Mr. Samuel Davies, then of the firm of Davies & Williams, of London House. Mr. Davies was a native of Sycharth, and married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. John Davies of the Three Tuns Inn. After some structural alterations, Mr. Davies opened, calling the shop, at the commencement, Britannia House, then changing it to Victoria House. Mr. Davies continued in business up to his death in 1913.

No. 4 (Mr. Llowarch), was in 1854 occupied by Mr. Thomas Hughes, tailor and outfitter, who in 1865 removed to No. 63 in this street. The next occupier was Mr. Robert Walker, general dealer, from Birmingham House, No. 24, Church Street, who for a time called this place after the same name, changing

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it later to The Ark. Mr. Walker died in 1891.

No. 2 (Mr. Wm. Davies), with which ends Willow Street, was the shop of Messrs. Wm. Moreton & Son, butchers. Mr. Moreton, senr., died in 1870, aged eighty-two, and his son in 1885. Mr. John Whitridge Thomas, grocer, from No. 13, The Cross, was here for a short time, being followed by Messrs. David Roberts and J. W. Williams, booksellers and newsagents.

There were three other beer-houses in this street, which have not been located, viz. :—The Black Horse (Hugh Jones, 1722 and Thomas Jones, 1728), Plough and Harrow (John Hughes, 1752), and the Green Man (Robert Jones, 1740 and John Edwards, 1746).

THE CROSS.

The Cross. Upon this open space, proclamations were made of the fairs, kings' accessions, &c. A few items under the latter head, are taken from the Borough Accounts, viz. :—

1588.	"For woode to begin the bonne fire at her said majestie's coronacion	2d.
	For facotts to make fire at the Crosse ...	2d.
1702.	"To Mr. Charles Lloyd for ale	15s.
	Two bottles of wine at the Cross	3s. 4d."

The centre was occupied by a building, which probably served as a Market Hall. Of the time of its erection there is no authentic record, but the Murringer in his account of 1559" dothe charge hymselfe with money fee upon them that sell brede (bread) settinge of stalls selinge wares &c by ye Crosse." In the following year (1560) the Bailiffs leased a chamber " over the Market house situated in Crosse street " for 5/- a year, and in 1640, Morris Evans and Thomas Edwards, bailiffs granted unto Thomas Griffiths " all those two lofts sellars or chambres etc adjoining to Crosse Street, etc,, together with the town weights, for twenty-one years."

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Further records are as follows :—

1687. " Pd. John rhe joyner for a new plank for making the benches abte ye Crosse, 00.04:00."
1690. " Evan Jones yt lived over ye Cross bur."
1693. " Ordered ye Crosse be repaired provided ye same bee substantially, and not above six poundes bee laid for it in ye alteringe of ye same."
1694. " Pd. for mending windows of ye Crosse, 00:03:00."
1697. " Alice Smith, widow, a stranger yt dyed at Edward Dakers' house over ye Cross, bur."
1706. " Received of Thomas Candor rent for ye Crosse, 00:14:00."
1716. " Received of Thomas Hughes, barber, fore one year's rent of ye Crosse, 0:17:0."

From subsequent records it may be gathered that the Market Hall of the sixteenth century was demolished and a wooden cross, with shelter and benches erected upon the site, for the records read thus :—

1731. " We present (indicte) the Murringer (Collector) for not repairing benches under the Cross."
1733. " Pd. Tom Robert Shone for raiseing the benches of the Cross, 0:1:6."
1759. " It was resolved to prosecute the several persons who have cut and pool down part of the Cross."
1762. " Ordered that the Old Cross be taken down immediately after the next fair."
1766. " We present the Murringer for not building a Cross and taking down the benches where the old ones stood."
1767. " We present the Murringer for not taking down the Cross benches, being dangerous, if not done in a week fined in five shillings."

When the old cross and benches were actually taken down and removed is not upon record, but the work must have been previous to 1784, for in the lord's rental for that year is a charge :—

" Aug. 25. Subscription towards sinking a well for a pump at Oswestry Cross, £5:5:0."

At this time the Cross was a " public place " for the punishment of convicted persons, for in the record of proceedings at the Borough Quarter Sessions is the following :—

8 May, 1794. " Ordered that Mary Windsor (convicted of felony) wife of Philip Windsor be imprisoned in the Common Gaol of the said town until the hour of four o'clock on Saturday

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next, and that she be then publicly whipped in the open market place at The Cross by the Beadle of the said Town, who shall give her twelve lashes on her bare back and then be discharged."

The wooden pump fixed in 1784 did service until 1862, when an ornamental stone fountain, designed by Mr. Wiggington of London, took its place. It took the form of a market cross and stood eleven feet high from ground line. It had three bowls with three electro-plated cups chained to them for drinking, and below were three troughs for dogs to drink out of. Upon the one side of the pillar was inscribed " Anno Domini 1862," on the second " The fear of the Lord is the fountain of life," and upon the third " Presented by Henry Bertie Watkin Williams Wynn." The donor lived at Llanforda, and was the father of Mrs. Stanley Leighton. The water first laid on was from Brogyntyn Park, that from the town reservoir being supplied later, and was much used for drinking purposes, but the structure, through a succession of accidents, became irrepairable, and in 1882 had to be replaced by one of cast metal with an ornamental lamp frame on its summit, the whole standing upon a superstructure of masonry. It is inscribed " W. H. G. Weaver, mayor, 1882." The old fountain is preserved within the grounds of the Castle Bank.

After the demolition of the market Cross, and up to 1842, the markets had to be conducted in the open streets. In all weathers the sellers had to stand by their baskets or squat themselves down on the curb-stones with their baskets of butter, fruit and vegetables in the channel before them. Butter was sold near the City and Midland Bank, poultry in the centre of the street, and fruit, especially in its season, each side of the Cross and Church Street up to Cae Glas. Mr. Askew Roberts, when lecturing in the Public Hall, related that when he was a boy, it was the common practice, on market days, for youths to provide themselves with a spiked rod and then to walk behind old women standing by baskets and abstract a tempting apple or pear from the basket of an unwary owner.

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The question of providing a suitable building for the sale of butter, fruit, poultry, &c., had oft times been before the Council, and in May, 1838, a special meeting was summoned to fully discuss the matter. The stumbling block then was the high value of property around the Cross, near which, upon the open streets, the markets had up to that time been held. Two sites were spoken of at the meeting, the first was the ground comprising the range of buildings between Mr. Dorsett Owen's Wine Vaults (then the one-storeyed building now used as an office) and the Cross Keys Hotel property (then coming up to Mr. Espley's pork shop) with which to form a new street from the Cross into Salop Road, providing market accommodation on each side. The other site was the Three Tuns property, upon which a price could be obtained, and being a locality central to the three main streets of the town, was admirably adapted for the purpose. It was proposed to have a main opening in the centre of the Cross and another into Willow Street, as well as retaining the one then existing into Bailey Street. This second site was adopted and secured at a cost of £2,700. The site of the central entrance in the Cross was an ironmonger's shop occupied for many years by the Jones family, who retired to the old Plasffynnon house, and lastly by Mr. Edward Davies, brother of Mr. John Davies who succeeded Mr. Richard Bill at No. 16, Bailey Street. The contract for the erection of the building was given to Messrs. Griffith Morris & Sons, the cost being defrayed partly by private subscriptions and partly by a charge upon the rates. In the Salopian Journal for May 18th, 1842, it was reported that the front portion of the market opening to the Cross " was ready for the purposes intended," and on the 15th June following, the same paper stated that at a meeting of the Markets Committee, a further contract was let to Messrs. Griffith Morris & Sons " for an extension into Willow Street, with approaches and entrance from the latter, the whole to be completed within three months." There is no report of any formal opening, and it may

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therefore be taken that the place was quietly appropriated as and when ready. (Mr. Askew Roberts' *Contributions*.)

According to an old drawing of the Cross entrance the side arches, in the first instance, were filled in with iron railings, the closing up with white bricks having been done later.

The clock above the entrance was put up in 1854, chiefly through the exertions of Mr. Charles Sabine, Senr., a well-known Oswestrian of his day, the cost being defrayed by subscriptions from the townspeople. The following, chosen by Mr. Sabine, is inscribed on both sides of the clock :—" Nummi, Ponderis, Mensuræ et Temporis, norma sit una." which might be somewhat freely rendered thus :—

Time and money, space and weight,
By one fixed standard calculate.

Several new wings have since been added to the building, and a street (New Street) made at the rear, to accomplish which the Town Council purchased the old Grapes Inn and premises in Willow Street, the Three Tuns and premises with shops in Bailey Street, and some premises in Clawdd-du adjoining.

No. 16, The Cross (The Arcade), was a Wine Vaults and confectionery shop, kept for upwards of sixty years by the Misses Mary Ann and Elizabeth Price, daughters of Mr. John Price, joiner, 20, Church Street. The last of these occupiers died in 1890, and was succeeded by Mr. John Jacks, who died in 1896, and Mrs. Fanny Howell, until the licence was discontinued. The house has since been refronted and internally altered.

No. 12, The Cross (Mr. Beckitt), was formerly two shops. It has been refronted, but so much of it as is exposed to Market Street is a fine specimen of an old half-timber building with a projecting top storey. In 1845 the portion adjoining the Market Hall was occupied by the North and Central Wales Banking Co., under the management of Mr. Thomas Hughes, wine merchant, but the concern failed to get estab-

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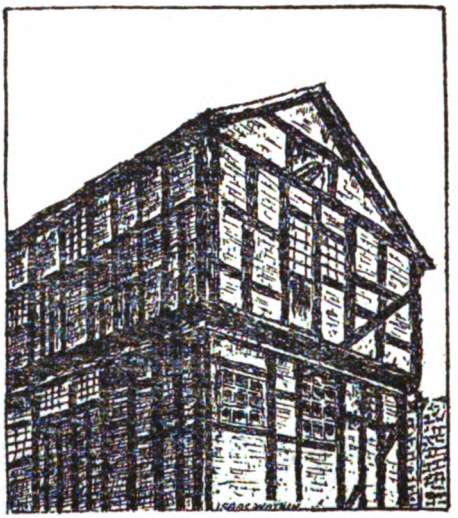
lished. The other portion was kept by the Misses Morris, milliners, who were succeeded by Messrs. John and Peter Thomas, grocers, who took over the whole of the premises. In 1852, Mr. Richard Jones, hatter, removed that department of his business from Bailey Street here. During his occupation he allowed the



VIEW (IN MARKET STREET) OF THE UPPER PORTION OF NO. 12, THE CROSS.

use of an upper front room for a Library and Reading Room in connection with the Young Men's Institute of that time. In 1855 he removed back into Bailey Street, these premises, in the following year, being taken by Messrs. Jones Brothers, who named them the London Tea Establishment. In 1867, Messrs. Jones removed to Bailey Street and were succeeded here by Mr. Griffith Griffiths of the Golden Eagle, who traded under the style of G. Griffiths & Co. up to the time of his death in 1901.

No. 10 (Mortons) was in 1845 occupied by Mr. Lazarus Shone, grocer. He was succeeded by Mr. Henry Jones (brother of Mr. Edward Jones, cabinet maker), who opened in the tobacco business, and which was the first of its kind in the town. Mr. Jones gave up in 1857 and was succeeded by Mr. David

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Williams, boot and shoe dealer, who removed here from below the Butcher's Arms in Willow Street. Mr. Williams died in 1879, and his name is inscribed upon one of the memorial stones of the Primitive Methodist Church, in Chapel Street, but he had retired some years previously, his successor being Mr. W. Ambrose Jones.

No. 8 (Meesons). A butcher's business was carried on here for many years by Mr. Edward Lewis and his daughters, the last of whom, Miss Margaret Lewis, died at Weston Grove in 1891. They retired early in the sixties and were succeeded by Mr. David Edwards, father of Mrs. Williams, The Oriel, who in 1867 removed into Bailey Street, when Miss Allmand (afterwards Mrs. Robert Porter) came in from two doors below. Mrs. Porter remained until 1894 and was succeeded by Miss M. J. Owen and the Misses Godsall & Owen.

No. 6 (Mellias' Stores). In the beginning of the last century this was a low and ancient looking building, in the occupation of Mr. William Edwards, printer, who in 1809 was succeeded by Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, printer and bookbinder. Mr. Minshall, when a youth, resided with his uncles, Messrs. Nathaniel and John Minshall of Preeshenlle Farm, and married Sarah, daughter of Mr. Joseph Roberts and Sarah (Bickerton) his wife, of Earleshill, Pontesbury, and afterwards of Dudleston, Ellesmere. It appears that in those days the authorities had to be notified of all printing establishments, for in the Records of the Shropshire Quarter Sessions for 1809, is an entry :— "Notice from Nathaniel Minshall that he has a printing press which he proposes to use for printing in Oswestry." Mr. Minshall afterwards removed to No. 16, Church Street, when this property was purchased by Mr. Thomas Edwards, printer, of 23, Bailey Street. Mr. Edwards rebuilt the shop and occupied it for many years, and was mayor in 1853. He afterwards lived in retirement at Cae Glas, No. 36, Church Street. Mr. Edwards was succeeded by Mr. David Edward Lloyd, grocer, who married Sarah, daughter

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of Mr. Edward Jones, White Horse Hotel, and in 1858 removed to No. 3, The Cross. Then came Mr. Edward Rudd, also a grocer, and after two years was succeeded by Mr. Robert Houston Porter of Dumfries, who opened as a seedsman and florist. Mr. Porter was a member of the Town Council, and after leaving here was in business for a short time in Market Street. The ground floor was formerly approached by a couple of steps, but this was remedied and the front partly rebuilt by Boots, Limited, who occupied previous to entering upon No. 5, Church Street.

Between No. 6 and the corner of Market Street were formerly three shops that in 1845 belonged to Mr. Thomas Brazenor, It was at the first of these (adjoining No. 6) that Mr. William Corney, coming into the town a young man, commenced business as a confectioner. Upon his removal in 1835 to No. 15, Church Street, he was succeeded by Mr. William Owen watchmaker, a native of Newtown; Mr. Owen remained until 1856 when he removed to No. 2, Cross Street, and was succeeded here by the Misses Jarvis, milliners, who in 1860 retired in favour of Miss Mary Allmand also a milliner. She again in 1867 removed two doors nearer the Market Hall (No. 8) and was followed here by Mrs. Samuel Price in the same business.

In the centre shop Mr. James Bywater resided in 1845, being followed later by his sisters the Misses Bywater, milliners, after whom the place was opened in the boot business and called Wellington House, by Messrs. Joseph Hill, E. Deeley, E. Hodges, and (in 1862) Henry Syars, respectively. About the year 1869 both these shops were purchased by Mr. John Evans (Messrs. Evans, Jones & Co.), the building demolished, and one shop which was called Compton House, erected in their stead, and in 1870, opened by the firm as a branch of their outfitting business, In 1880 the firm was dissolved and the business taken over by Mr. Edward Jones, under the style of Jones & Jones, until 1885, when it was acquired by Mr. Edward Roberts.

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The third shop adjoining Market Street, was in Mr. Thomas Brazenor's occupation, he having taken to the stock in trade of Mr. David Skellorn, Bailey Street, in 1822. The building was narrow, approached by about four steps with hand rails, and the rooms were low. His business was that of a saddler, with occasional dealings in game. At that time there resided in the neighbourhood a man called " Bob the poacher," who was strongly suspected of trespassing too freely upon the preserves of a certain sportsman living near Whittington, but every attempt at a capture had failed. Discovering that Bob was a frequent visitor at Mr. Brazenor's premises, it was arranged that upon the next occasion the police should be notified, so that if they failed to catch Bob in the act of *killing*, they might at least seize him in the act of *offering* game for sale. Shortly afterwards, Bob, with the usual bag upon his back, entered the shop, when Mr. Brazenor asked him to be seated, alleging at the same time that something of importance was calling him away " just for a minute." Mr. Brazenor then hurried around the police, brought them along the Market Street entrance and into a room overlooking the shop, himself afterwards entering through the shop door, at the same time exclaiming, " Now, Bob, show me what you've got to-day, turn your bag out upon the floor." Bob leisurely untied the strings, and holding the bag up in position, out tumbled a dozen dead cats ! About 1850 Mr. Brazenor was succeeded in the saddlery business by Mr. Francis Evans, he being followed by his widow and son (Mr. John Evans). During the latter's occupation the premises underwent considerable alteration, and the floor brought down to the level of the street. The place was afterwards acquired by Mr. Edward Roberts and added to Compton House adjoining, until purchased by the National Provincial Bank, Ld., by whom the entire block was demolished and the present bank building erected upon the site.

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MARKET STREET.

Immediately on the left is Market Street, which up to 1866 was known as Clawdd Du or Clawdd Du Shut, after the *black ditch* which probably existed there centuries ago. From the number of presentments made at Quarter Sessions it may be inferred that greater nuisances existed here than in any other part of the town. Leland, a visitor in the days of Henry VIII wrote :—" There goeth through the towne by the Crosse, a broke comming from a place caulled Simon's Well, a bow-shot w'thout the waulle by N.W. This broke commith in through the waulle betwixt Will'i gate and New gate and soe running through the towne and under the Black gate." Some of the water still flows this way, the drain conveying it passing underneath what is now the King's Theatre. During a severe thunderstorm in the month of May, about thirty years ago, when the ponds upon the Hayes ground oveflowed, such a rush of water came down from that quarter that Willow Street became impassable as in the olden times, a quantity of fish being picked up near the Boar's Head Hotel, and the fire engines were requisitioned to draw out the water which had filled the cellars of the Cross. The back approaches to the bottom of Willow Street and Cross premises take up the southern side of Market Street. Upon the other side and adjoining the Market Hall was a small dwelling house, for many years occupied by Mr. William Bowyer. Next was the workshop of Mr. William Coady, painter and decorator. Mr. Coady came to Oswestry at the opening of the Cambrian Works, where he worked for a short time, afterwards commencing business for himself. He was a superior tradesman, and always wore a tall hat at such an angle as happened to be his state or condition. Later he removed to Coney Green House, where he took over the business of Mr. Henry Thomas. A portion of this block was taken to enlarge the Market Hall, a new building being erected upon the surplus

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179 **THE OLD GRAPES HOTEL and ENTRANCE TO MARKET HALL, from Willow Street—Demolished.** (Page 179).

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ground, which in 1880 was occupied by Mr. A. Mansfield, boot dealer, afterwards Richard Morris (who called it Wiltshire House), cheese merchant, and Thos. Thomas Lewis from 29, Bailey Street, pork butcher.

The next block comprised a shop and a cottage or two, the first named being occupied by Mrs. Mary Lewis, poulterer and greengrocer, who was succeeded in the same business by her son-in-law, Mr. John Thomas. About the time of Mr. Thomas' retirement, a fire took place, after which the old buildings were demolished and the present shops erected. These in turn became occupied by Messrs. E. B. Thompson and R. O. Wright, grocers.

The next, a low half-timber building with a gable projecting over Bailey Street, was known as Paris House. In 1850 it was in the occupation of Mr. Russell, draper, whose stock, two years afterwards was taken over by Mr. George J. Sharp. The latter remained until 1854 when Messrs, John Moreton & Co. opened in the same business. After two years Mr. Moreton removed to the Golden Eagle, No. 21, The Cross, these premises shortly afterwards being taken as a branch establishment by Messrs. Morris & Jones, outfitters, under the management of Mr. Woolrich. In 1868 Mr. Edwin Blyde Burge was occupier, changing the name of the place to Cheltenham House, and remaining until 1875, when the portion next Bailey Street was opened for business by the Midland Banking Co., with Mr. Charles Minshall, solicitor, as acting manager. The other portion was taken up by Mr. Samuel Tomkies, grocer and china dealer, and afterwards by Messrs. Sandford & Co., who named it the Liver Establishment. The Bank business was afterwards transferred to the front portion of Llwyd's Mansion and these premises purchased by Messrs. Stead & Simpson of Leicester.

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BAILEY STREET.

Keeping upon the left we enter Bailey Street, or "Bayley Streate," one of "the III most notable streates," mentioned by Leland.

The first premises, adjoining Paris House, were those in the occupation of Mr. James Weaver, chemist and seedsman. Mr. Weaver, who came to Oswestry in 1820, was descended from an old Herefordshire family, being the youngest son of Mr. Francis Watkin Weaver, doctor of medicine, of Hereford, which city his ancestors represented in Parliament for several generations. He married Hannah Maria, daughter of Mr. Hill of Trawscoed House, Guilsfield, and was in business here for upwards of forty years, being assisted by his son and successor Mr. W. H. G. Weaver. After retiring he resided in Coney Green where he died in 1881, aged ninety-two. In politics Mr. Weaver was a staunch liberal and was elected a member of the town council in 1835. His son, James, was a surgeon in the Royal Navy, during the Crimean War, afterwards practising at Llandrinio, Longton and Southport, where he died in 1903. Mr. W. H. G. Weaver, who married Winifred, daughter of Mr. Owen Owen of Wilcot, continued the business here until 1866, when he removed to No. 6, Cross Street. In a few years afterwards this place was opened by Mr. Joseph Whitfield, grocer, who was succeeded by Mr. William Roberto, watchmaker, until his removal to No. 21. The property then came into the hands of Messrs. Stead & Simpson, who in 1880 demolished this and the Paris House block in Market Street, sold about a dozen square yards of the ground to the Corporation for the purpose of widening Bailey Street and side path ((which were narrow and inconvenient), and erected the present buildings upon the remainder of the site, the boot business meanwhile being carried on at Osborne House.

No. 3 was the business premises of Mr. William Hodges, hop and seed merchant, and mayor in 1854.

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About 1860, Mr. Samuel Higham, gunsmith, removed here from No. 5, adjoining, continuing up to his death in 1873, after which the business was carried on by his widow and son, the latter being still in occupation.

No. 5 was for many years occupied by Mr. Richard Birch, being succeeded in 1854 by Mr. Samuel Higham who came here from Llwyd's Mansion, and subsequently removing to No. 3. After Mr. Higham came Mr. John Lloyd of Knockin, who opened as a grocer, calling the place London House. In 1867 Mr. Lloyd removed to 8, Willow Street, and was succeeded by Mr. John Edwards by whom the name was changed to Manchester House. His widow married Mr. Goronwy Owen Jones and shortly afterwards disposed of the business to Mr. W. J. Roberts (from Messrs. J. & E. Phillips, The Cross), who carried it on for many years, then retiring to Brynycastell, where he died in 1916. His successor here was Mr. M. Matthews, who died in 1918.

Both Nos. 3 and 5, like the Paris House premises, projected into the street, but in 1882, Mrs. Higham, the owner, disposed of about eleven square yards to the Corporation for improving the side path, afterwards rebuilding the fronts in line with the adjoining properties.

The next building comprised a fairly sized shop, approached by a step, with two windows on ground floor and door in centre, and which, in the beginning of last century, was owned and occupied by Mr. Francis Jones, hatter, and after his death by his widow, Mrs. Margaret Jones (Edwards). She was succeeded by her son, Mr. Richard Jones, who for upwards of forty years conducted a hat business upon the one side and sold small wares uponthe other. His son, Mr. Joseph Parry Jones, writing to *Bye Gones*, gave the following account of the place and the Three Tuns Inn :—" My grandfather's cousin, Joseph Parry, purchased the property in the year 1805, from Sir Watkin Williams Wynn, and re-sold it immediately to my grandfather, Mr. Francis Jones. The house and shop now in the

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occupation of Mr. Lawless were then connected with the Three Tuns, it originally having formed one house. Shortly after my grandfather's purchase the front was taken down and modernized. It had previously been very much like old Paris House at the corner of Bailey Street. My father understood that the entire property had been occupied by the ancestors of the Wynn family as their 'Town House'." Mr. Richard Jones died in 1870 and his widow, who afterwards went to reside with her son, Mr. J. Parry-Jones, at Beechfield, died in 1895. Then followed Mr. McDermott and Mr. Lawless in the small-ware business, until 1880, when the Oswestry Public House Co. converted it into a Temperance house called the Oswestry Castle. At the rear were extensive workshops, warehouses and a public bakery, but having been acquired by the Corporation, the whole were demolished, the Cross Market Hall extended, Bailey Street improved, and the present Poultry Market opening in Bailey Street erected. Upon the front of the latter is an inscription :—" Corporation Markets, 1903. J. Maclardy, Esq., Mayor. E. Bremner Smith, Esq., Chairman." Mr. Edward Bremner Smith was born in 1844 and came from London to Oswestry in 1864 to fill an appointment under the late Mr Thomas Savin, was borough surveyor 1867-1879, entered the town council in 1880 and elected mayor 1893 and 1905.

Adjoining the last premises (Mr. Richard Jones') was an opening leading to the Three Tuns Inn, which house stood back about thirty yards from the street. The earliest reference to it is in a MS. by Ashmole (1617-1692), who mentions that a shield of arms appeared on several windows of the " Three Tunnes, Oswestrie." The next is in the parish register of 1691 : " John Edwards ye 3 Tuns burd." In a room upstairs was a panel bearing date 1604, and over the fire place in another room were oak panels and letters with the date 1640. In the eighteenth century it was one of the principal inns of the town and the chief resort of the Welsh drapers, and in January, 1785, the Vestry

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was "adjourned to the dwelling house of Edward Hughes, known by the signe of ye three Tuns." Other occupiers mentioned in the registers are

THE THREE TUNS INN (demolished).

Messrs. John Davies, 1727, James Boodle, 1738, David Redrobe, 1744, Thomas Redrobe, 1749, Thomas Tart, 1761, Edward Hughes, 1798, and William

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Richards, 1808, the following being successors :— Mrs. Ann Pritchard, 1828, Messrs. James Beckett, 1841, John Davies, 1852, (Mrs.) Elizabeth Davies, 1855, Josiah Jones, 1870, Van Vene, 1880, Isaac Jones, 1881, and Tom King, 1883. Soon after the last date the entire block was demolished to make room for the extension of the Cross Market Hall and the formation of the greater part of New Street.

The shop upon the north side of entrance from Bailey Street was also part of the Wynnstay estate, and in 1798 occupied by Mr. Robert Skellorn, saddler, whose son, David Skellorn, in 1822 sold the business to Mr. Thomas Brazenor, of the Cross. His successor was Mr. William Price, confectioner, who about 1850 retired in favour of the Misses Helen and Mary Davies. They had previously acquired the confectionery business that for more than half a century had been carried on by the Wynne family at Blackgate, Salop Road, and they remained here until the premises were required for the Street Improvements. Miss Helen Davies died in 1918 aged 90 years.

Then came another shop, which, in 1845, was owned and occupied (in part) by Mr. John Tomkies, boot dealer and leather cutter. The upper half of the ground floor front was separately held by Miss Jane Jones, straw bonnet maker. Mr. Tomkies died in 1852, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. Charles Tomkies, who married Sarah, daughter of Mr. Thomas Tyley of the Sun Inn. Mr. Tomkies was followed by Mr. Thomas Markey, tailor, who remained until the site was required for the construction of New Street.

Adjoining the last, and where now stands the Tower Café, were the premises of Mr. Edward Roberts, corn and flour merchant, who married Ann ,daughter of Mr. David Jameson of this street. Mr. Roberts' successors in the part fronting the street were Messrs. Weaver & Son, seed merchants, and at the rear Mr. John Nield commenced as an ironfounder. In 1867 the entire premises were taken by Messrs. Jones Brothers, grocers and provision merchants, who removed here from No. 12, The Cross, and remained

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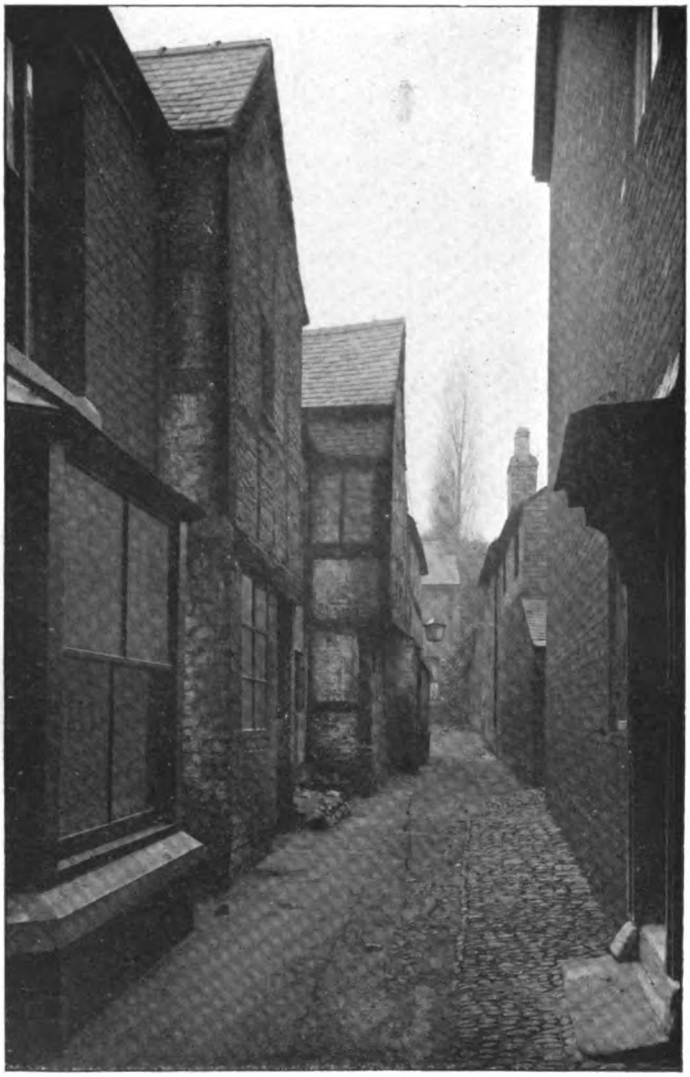

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Photo, Mr. Henry Jones.

CLIFTON COURT, BAILEY STREET. (Page 197).

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until the block was required for the improvement of Bailey Street, the present buildings being erected upon the surplus ground..

Next came a wide cartway and another shop and dwelling house. The latter in 1845 was a public house called the Black Lion and kept by Mr. John Williams. The license was discontinued shortly afterwards, but renewed for No. 27. About 1862 this was again opened as a beerhouse, which at the commencement was called The Locomotive and changed to Engine and Tender, the landlord being Mr. George Turner who was or had been an engine driver. After a few years existence the license was discontinued and the premises taken by Mr. William Lowther, furniture broker, who died in 1884. These buildings were also demolished at the same time as the last, and the present shop, No. 17, erected upon the site.

No. 19 was a butcher's shop in the occupation of Mr. John Vaughan, whose father kept a small bakery in the rear. There were three other houses in that direction, one of them occupied by an old bellman named Gittins. The block having become dilapidated, the site was acquired by Mr. Edward Shaw, ironmonger, by whom, in 1869, the buildings were demolished and a showroom, with an ornamental front erected, and which, later, was converted into a seed shop for Messrs. Jones & Roberts.

No. 21 (Mr. Christian). This building, recently refronted, is a modern erection at the street end of an ancient half-timber residence. The latter, which is of the early plain style, has a frontage of forty-five feet to the passage (in which is an elaborately carved beam) leading to Clifton Place, and possesses two overhanging (but now shorn) gables, and has every appearance of having been an important residence, and without doubt is the oldest of this class of building now remaining in the town. The interior has long since been converted into small dwellings, and is now going rapidly to decay. The portion fronting the street was for the greater part of last century in two shops. The first of these was occupied by Mr. ——— Williams,

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butcher, who was a successful candidate for a seat on the Council at the first election following the passing of the Municipals Corporation Act of 1832. The pond in Gatacre field, adjoining the path leading to Old Oswestry, was formed by his son and for a decade called " Jim Williams' pool." The other portion was held by Mr. John Davies, saddler, until his removal in 1852 to No. 23 next above. After then one shop was formed of both and taken by Mr. Henry Gill, a butcher, who was followed by Mr. Henry Jones, who married Mr. Gill's sister. After being refronted, the occupiers were Messrs. William Roberto, watchmaker (removed from the bottom of the street and in 1889 retired in favour of his nephew, W. A. Roberto), and L. Lockier, in the fancy trade.

No. 23 (Mr. Taylor), was the residence and printing office of Mr. William Edwards, that for some time held No. 6, The Cross, and who died in 1813. The business was afterwards carried on by his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Edwards, assisted by her stepson, Mr. Thomas Edwards, the latter from 1823 conducting it in his own name. Edwards' *History of Oswestry* was printed here " by and for E. Edwards " in 1819. Mr. Thomas Edwards afterwards removed to No. 6, The Cross, leaving his brother Mr. Alexander Edwards here. Later the place was occupied by Dr. John Wynne, until his removal, in 1852, to Castle House, Willow Street, when Mr. John Davies, saddler, came in from No. 21. After Mr. Davies' death, the business was continued by his widow, Mrs. Frances Davies and Sons.

No. 25 (Mr. Ellis). A gunsmith's business has been carried on at this place continuously since the beginning of the last century. The first occupier as such was Mr. Thomas Stanton, who died in 1813. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. Robert Stanton, assisted later by his son, Mr. Richard Stanton, quarter-master of the local troop of yeomanry. Mr. Stanton, senior, died in 1863, aged ninety-one, and his son, who had resided in the same house all his life, in 1872, when the business was taken over by Mr. Henry Crutchloe, from

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Messrs. E. Thomas & Co., The Cross, and he again in 1882 was succeeded by Mr. J. G. Benbow.

No. 27 (Messrs. G. & W. Perks) has been entirely rebuilt. In 1858 it was the Black Lion Inn (the license having been removed here from No. 19), kept by Mr. Walter Russell. After that it was converted into a butcher's shop for Mr. Richard Roberts, who, later, was suceceded by Mr. Arthur Owen and Arthur Owen & Son. Mr. Edwin Owen the son died in 1877, Mr. Arthur Owen shortly afterwards retired from business, and died in 1888. The premises were then taken by Mr. Wallis, pork butcher and aerated water manufacturer, who occupied until 1883, when they were rebuilt and in 1884 opened by the owner, Mr. George Perks, from No. 36. Mr. Perks, born in Kingsland, Herefordshire, in 1840, was educated at Lucton School and served an apprenticeship to the grocery trade. At the age of twenty he came to Oswestry as an assistant to Mr. Edward Green, Canton House, The Cross. He afterwards decided to commence on his own account, married Mary, daughter of Mr. William Morgan of Wigmarsh, and from the beginning he worked his way upwards to be a very successful man of business. He was a prominent member of the Primitive Methodist Connection and the Order of Rechabites and Oddfellows, entered the town council in 1886, elected mayor 1894, appointed a justice of the peace in 1897 and an alderman in 1907. He was also a member of the School Board and of the Board of Guardians. He died in 1912. His surviving partner, Mr. William Perks, was elected mayor of the town in November, 1919.

No. 29 (Bradleys), an ornamental half-timber building that until recently comprised two shops. The first, adjoining passage, was the Talbot Commercial Hotel and Coffee House, kept in 1849 by Mr. John Rees, who in an advertisement stated it was " opposite the North & South Wales Bank," which was then at Osborne House. His successors were Messrs. W. Jackson and Alfred Jones, the latter for a short time only, for the place was converted into a butcher's shop

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for Mr. Arthur Owen, who afterwards removed to No. 27, and was succeeded here by Mr. John Price, bootmaker. He, again, removed to No. 22, and about 1865 the place was opened as the Talbot Inn, by Mr. John Denny, who occupied for a few years. It was afterwards turned into a grocer's shop by Mr. Thomas Lewis, who removed to No. 1, Market Street, and was succeeded by Mr. Henry Jones, grocer.
The upper half was in the occupation of Mr. John Jones, provision dealer, before his removal to No. 2, Church Street. Next, it was opened in the fish business, by Mr. Henry Wilson, who named it Liverpool House, and lastly, in 1880, as the Beehive Establishment, by Mr. Thomas Henry Jones, grocer. After Mr. Jones' retirement the premises were converted into one shop, as now.

No. 33 (late Messrs. Minshall & Co., Ironmongers) has undergone much alteration during the last century In 1833 the occupier was Mr. James Howell, hairdresser, who in that year was elected a member of the town council. A few years later Mr. John Minshall opened in the ironmongery business, taking over the stock-in-trade of Mr. J. E. Fisher, No. 1, The Cross, in 1853. He was joined by Mr. Dale, trading as Minshall & Dale, until 1864, when Mr. Dale withdrew and his place taken by Mr. Davies, the firm being known as Minshall & Davies until the death of Mr. Minshall when it was advertised as Minshall & Co. Mr. Thomas Poole, a member of the firm, was mayor in 1903.

Nos. 35 and 37 (Y.M.C.A. Rooms, &c.). This spot is known as the residence of the Felton family, stalwart Nonconformists of the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. The name of one, Thomas Felton, appears in Edward Lloyd of Llanforda's MSS (1660) in a List entitled "The names of the Mallignant enemies to the Kinge Ma—in and about Oswestree in the County of Salope (to witt), Thomas ffellton, brazier and his wife." The same name also occurs in the Mayor's (Richard Pope) Book in 1673 as refusing "to subscribe against the solemn League and Covenant."

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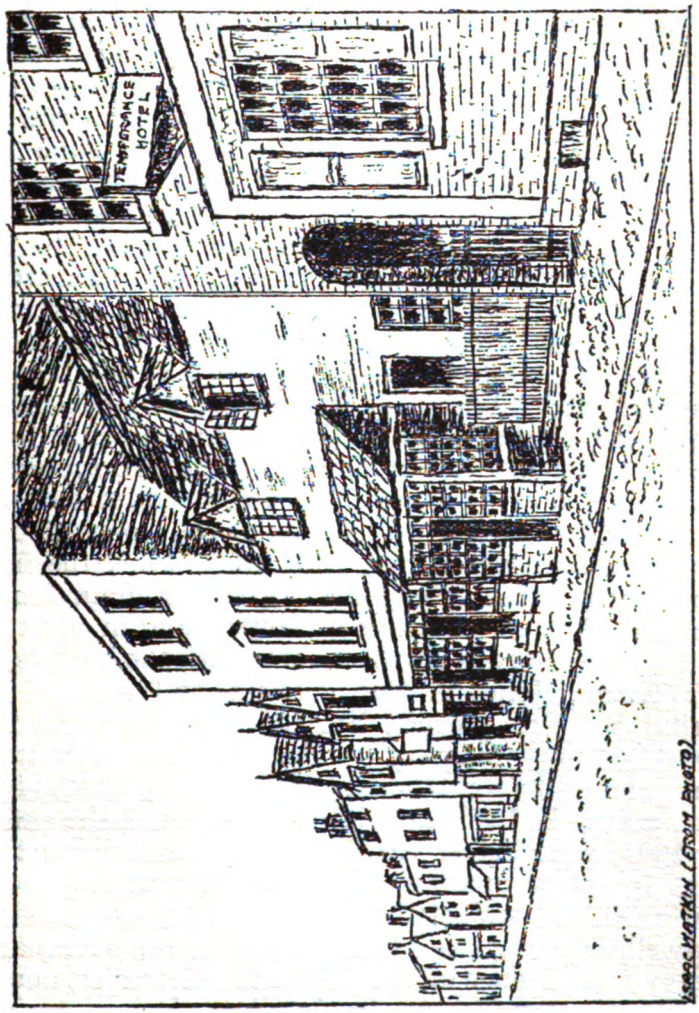
This Mr. Felton was also elected Councilman for the town under the Charter granted by Charles II, but true to his republican principles he declined to serve as such. The name of Richard Felton, freeholder,



BAILEY STREET (WEST SIDE), 1869.

appears as voting for Colonel Andrew Lloyd of Aston, at a parliamentary election in 1646. In the documments relating to the Old Chapel there are the names of three generations of Feltons, all braziers. Mr.

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John Felton, brazier, exchanged lands in Selattyn parish with Mr. Robert Lloyd of Swan Hill in 1744, and in 1757 sold the "Upper House" (afterwards Mount Zion and now called Oakhurst), to the Rev. Thomas Edwards of Selattyn, and up to the early part of last century, his initials J.F. remained in white pebbles in the pavement fronting his premises here. After Mr. Felton's death the property came into the hands of Mr. William Jameson, haberdasher, who by Will, dated 1794, and proved in 1818, gave his "messuage, burgage or dwelling house and garden with appurtenances in Bailey Street" to his mother, Mary Jameson, during her life and after to his brother David. The latter, a bookseller and afterwards a corn and seed merchant, acted as secretary and treasurer of the movement against the payment of gate and market tolls to the Lord of the Manor. He was succeeded by his son David, who continued until 1845, when Messrs. John Minshall and John Jones, under the style of Minshall, Jones & Co., opened as seed & hop merchants, and tea & coffee dealers. It was afterwards advertised as Savin, Jones & Co., hop and seed merchants, until 1861, when the firm became known as John Jones & Co. Mr. John Jones, born in 1822, was a native of Towyn, and in addition to the foregoing was also connected with the businesses of Evans, Jones & Co., drapers and grocers, G. Griffiths & Co., grocers, No. 12, The Cross, and the coachbuilding industry. He married Elizabeth, daughter of the Rev. Daniel Roberts, C.M., The Lodge, was mayor in 1872, appointed a justice of the peace in 1893, and died in 1907. During the early part of Mr. Jones' occupation, the business portion, about half the front, projected into the street, the remainder, a dwelling house, stood back a little, and was for many years the residence of Mr. Edward Poole, tailor, one of the two town postmen, and father of the late Mr. Edwin Poole, proprietor of the Brecon Times. The old buildings have not long been demolished, and the present structure, intended for an ironmonger's warehouse, erected.

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No. 39 was at the beginning of the last century in the occupation of Mr. Fuller Mercer Cockerill, who died in 1819. The following is a specimen of an obituary notice of that time :—" On Monday last, was buried at Oswestry, aged 72, Mr. Fuller Mercer Cockerill, the oldest housekeeper in the town and for upwards of fifty years an active and most benevolent surgeon and apothecary, peculiar for his practical knowledge of (we may say) paternal ailments and the diseases of little children. He was attended to the grave by gentlemen of the highest respectability in the learned professions, and his pall borne by the senior housekeepers of the town and neighbourhood. His manners were most gentle, his life inoffensive, his good humour comical and original. His leisure delighted in the cultivation of the fruits and flowers of a small garden. Conscious in the utility of a long and well-spent life, the decline of his age closed easy and serene, for ' he hath not spent his life ill who knoweth to die well, neither can he have lost his time who employeth the best portion of it to his own honour.' " (*Shrewsbury Chronicle.*) Soon after Mr. Cockerill's death the dwelling became a public house known as the Duke of Wellington, the stables and four small cottages belonging being approached by the passage now named Wellington Court. The inn was tenanted by Messrs. John Ellis (1828), Thomas Cash (1845), and Edward Weston (1856). Shortly after the last date it was converted into a temperance house, and occupied by the Rev. Hugh Roberts, C.M., a native of Bala and father of Messrs. Roberts, 55, Willow Street. Mr. Roberts died in 1870, aged sixty-eight, after when the business was conducted by his widow, Mrs. Roberts, who died in 1892. The ground floor front has since been altered.

No. 41 (Mr. Davies), was in 1840 opened by Mr. Edward Jones, shoemaker, who remained sixteen years, after when he took to farming, removing first to Pentreclawdd and afterwards to Craignant, where he died in 1899. The place was next opened as a beer house (Victoria Vaults) by Mr. Hugh Jones, who only

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remained a short time, and was succeeded by Mr. David Capper, shoemaker. He was followed in 1867 by Mr. David Edwards, butcher, from No. 8, the Cross, and Mrs. Ellen Edwards, until her removal to Eagles Hotel, when Mr. John Davies, from Bryn, Llanyblodwel, became the tenant.

No. 43 (Birch & Jones) and 45 (George Hotel) is one property. Previous to 1699 it belonged to John Allenson of the City of Chester, who in that year disposed of it to Richard Willoughby of Penyclawdd in the county of Denbigh, whitesmith, and was thus described :—" All that messuage or tenement with the appurtenances situate lying and being in the towne of Oswestry in the County of Saloppe in a certaine streete there called Bailiff Streete, now in the tenure or occupation of John Stoakes and William Jones." In 1737 it was acquired by " John Williams of Oswestry, ironmonger," who, in 1742, married Mary Stringer of Chester, and also, according to a stone fixed in the north gable, rebuilt the entire premises. The Williams family retained the property until 1802, when Mr. David Jameson became owner, he being succeeded by Mr. John Roberts, Mrs. Jane Bolver, and (about 1868) Mr. James Richards, saddler.

The latter occupied No. 43, the lower part of the front of which then contained two small windows each side of an entrance door that was approached by several steps projecting outwards, but was afterwards improved by Mr. Richards. Later he was joined by his son Mr. Edward Richards, as James Richards & Son. The senior partner died in 1893 at the age of eighty-five years.

George Hotel. Among the occupiers have been Messrs. John Williams (1742), Simon Jones (1748), John Williams (1770), William Price (1781), Richard Phillips (1788), Robert Edwards (1812), Evan Williams (1822), Arthur Hughes (1828), Edward Jones Jones (1840), John Edwards (1856), John Edward King (1860), James England (1872), John Davies and Van Veen. The Philanthropic Lodge of Oddfellows was established here in 1838.

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Photo Mr. Henry Jones.

Old Arms in No. 20, Bailey Street. Page 210.

Old House in The Cross, before the erection of Maypole Buildings. Page 222.

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BAILEY STREET—*eastern side.*

No. 38, corner shop (Mr. Birch), was erected in 1832 by Mr. Samuel Roberts (previously at No. 7, The Cross,) for the purpose of his business as a printer and bookseller. It was here that a type of printing press called the " Albion " was first introduced into the town, Mr. Roberts calling his premises the " Albion Printing Office." It also gave the name of Albion H ll to the short street connecting Beatrice Street and Leg Street with Bailey Head. Previous to this, wooden presses only, and worked by hand, were in use. Mr. Samuel Roberts appears to have withdrawn from the printing business in 1849, for during that year he went to reside at Preeshenlle, and, being a fully ordained minister, took entire charge of the Congregational Church there. After being laid up for some time from active service, he died in 1864 at Caxton House.

A magazine called " Oswald's Well," conducted by two of Mr. Roberts' sons, John Askew and Whitridge Roberts (including amongst its contributors Mr. Shirley Brooks, afterwards editor of Punch), was published here in the early forties, but upon the 1st January, 1849 "(with great diffidence, " wrote Mr. Roberts later), it was succeeded by the Oswestry Advertiser and Railway Guide—a monthly sheet of a dozen advertisements, with a gratuitous circulation during the first year. A small charge was made for it in 1850, and in 1851 it was decided to enlarge it, provided one thousand subscribers names at one shilling each were received. Mr. Whitridge Roberts went abroad, but under the enterprising management of Mr. J. Askew Roberts, the Advertizer was in a short time issued weekly, and by 1858, when he had taken into partnership Mr. John Jones, found these premises too small, and went to reside at Caxton House (formerly Claremont House), Beatrice Street, and removed the printing business to new premises, erected near, and called Caxton Works, which later were extended, and an opening made into Oswald Road, opposite the Cambrian Railways Station, but

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the stationery and bookselling branches were continued here until 1890, when the new premises, No. 2, Church Street, were opened.

Mr. John Jones, before mentioned, was the son of the Rev. John Jones, Congregational minister of Forden and Marton. He served his apprenticeship with Mr. Samuel Roberts, printer, and when his articles expired, became the assistant and subsequently the partner (for three years) of Mr. Askew Roberts. Upon the latter removing to Caxton House in 1858, Mr. Jones succeeded him as the occupier, but possessing a delicate constitution, he died in June, 1867, at the early age of thirty-three years.

After remaining at the Caxton Works for a few years, Mr. Askew Roberts retired and sold the copyright of the " Advertiser " to two of his old associates, Messrs. Edward Woodall and R. H. Venables, who afterwards traded under the style of Askew Roberts, Woodall & Venables. Later, Mr. Arthur Minshall, a grandson, and Mr. Charles Penrhyn Gascoigne, great grandson of Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, founder of the printing business, were taken into partnership.

No. 36 (Mr. Tavener) has been much altered. In 1845, when occupied by Mr. John Jones, pawnbroker, it appeared as one of the very old houses of the town, having upon each side of the doorway that was high above the level of the street and approached by steps, a small bow window filled in with little panes of cloudy glass. After the death of Mr. Jones his widow removed to No. 1, Willow Street, being succeeded here by Mr. Joseph Foulkes, cabinet maker, Mr. Charles Sinclair, baker, and Mr. George Perks, grocer. The latter, in 1884, removed to No. 27, and was succeeded here by Messrs. Jones & McKiernin, china dealers.

No. 34 (Bazaar) was erected, and for some years occupied by Mr. Robert Salter, son of Mr. Joseph Salter of Llwyds' Mansion, who carried on the business of a seedsman, and died in 1835. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. Richard Salter, who with his sister, added china and fishing requisites to the business. Mr. Salter retired in 1858, and the premises

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let to Mr. Thomas McKiernin, rope manufacturer, who removed here from No. 22. After the death of Mr. McKiernin in 1866, his widow continued the business until her death in 1884, when Messrs. John Davies & Son took it over. They were succeeded by Mr. Willett, general draper.

No. 32 (Syred & Co.) was formerly two shops. The one adjoining No. 34 was in 1845 occupied by Mr. Richard Matthews, watchmaker, and in 1855 by Mr. J. H. Matthews in the same business. He was succeeded in 1858 by Miss Hughes, milliner, and followed by Mrs. Allmand, also a milliner.

The lower half, in 1845, was held by Mr. John Edwards, and soon afterwards by Mr. Samuel Perkins, hosier and draper. It was Mr. Perkins' practice to mark the selling price of all goods in plain figures, and from those prices he was never known to deviate. His successor was Mr. Philip Henry Jones, hosier and outfitter, and when Mrs. Allmand vacated the upper shop in 1864, he took that also, and a few years later rebuilt the whole of the block.

No. 30, Osborne Hotel. It is stated in *Bye Gones* that in the beginning of the last century this place was a draper's shop in the occupation of a Mr. Edwards. Who he was has not been traced, for at that time the Edwards' were rather numerous in the town. The premises were converted into a wine vault by the late Mr. Thomas Hughes of No. 28, Church Street. After him came Mr. Leigh, who removed from the Wynnstay Arms Hotel and opened this place as a Commercial Hotel, by which name (Leigh's Commercial Hotel) it was for a time known. Mr. Leigh brought the post office with him and during his occupation the Royal Mail from Holyhead called here with letters and took away others for London, &c., at half-past nine every morning, that from London to Holyhead calling at three o'clock every afternoon. A horse post was despatched to Ellesmere at two o'clock every afternoon to meet the Chester and Liverpool mail, arriving back about ten the following morning. A horse post was also despatched to

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Llanfyllin at a quarter to four daily, journeying through Trefonen, Penybont, and Bwlchyddar and arriving back at eight the following morning. As this necessitated an early start from Llanfyllin, the postman, for convenience sake, usually turned his horse to graze into the churchyard close by, and it is related that when his elderly wife went to fetch it one morning she returned in a dilemma, saying someone had stolen it during the night and left an old and ugly animal in its stead. Upon inquiries, however, it was found that the poor horse had been washed over with whitening during the night, by two mischievous wags of the town, which caused much laughter and merriment in the streets of Llanfyllin that morning.

Mr. Leigh probably left in 1831 for the post office was that year removed to No. 10, Cross Street.

After Mr. Leigh came Mr. Charles Osburn, who married Miss Kyffin, and he occupied the "Commercial" so long that it came to be called Osburn's Hotel by the public. It was during his occupation (1833) that the King Oswald's Lodge of Oddfellows was established here. Mr. Osburn who was a member of the town council, died in 1851, and was succeeded by Mr. Macdougall, who had painted upon the signboard "Osburn's Commercial Hotel," but upon race advertisements it was called "Macdougall's Hotel." About this time many of the entertainments and performances of the town were held in the Assembly Rooms at this place, and in Cathrall's *History of Oswestry*, published in 1855, it is stated "that a small, *but highly respectable* body of Christians," (meaning the Plymouth Brethren), also held their meetings here. In 1840, Dr. Warwick, a professor of Chemistry, employed Joseph Embleim to solder the tubes of the gasometer of an oxy-hydrogen microscope in this room, when the gas exploded, bursting the ceiling and smashing 73 large panes of glass. In 1852 the license was granted to "Mary Macdougall," and in 1853 to Miss Morris, who in 1854 was succeeded by Mr. Edward Edwards (father of Miss Edwards, Gatacre Place), who occupied for about twenty-five years. The

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house afterwards became less Commercial and when acquired a few years ago by Mr. Walker, a sign was put up "The Osborne Hotel." Mr. Edwards was followed by Messrs. John Whittaker, Michael Mannion (who died in 1879), Edwin Dean and Charles Mytton.

Nos. 28 and 26 (Osborne House). This, up to 1844 was occupied by Dr. Roger Mercer Cockerill, son of Mr. F. M. Cockerill, surgeon, late of 39 in this street. Born in 1782, was mayor in 1827, and in 1829 married the daughter of Captain Lathrop, a very marrying man who owned Felton Hall. Captain Lathrop married in 1797 and again in 1801 and again in 1806, but as all three of his wives were alive at the same time, he got into trouble, and in 1812 was transported for bigamy to Australia. There he lost one of the three, but in 1827 he supplied her place by marrying a fourth with whom he came back to Felton Hall in 1849, and he died in 1850, leaving three wives surviving him. (*Shrop. Arch. Trans, Vol. II*, 365.)

In 1845 the North and South Wales Banking Company, with Mr. Scudamore as manager, removed here from No. 6, Church Street. Afterwards came Dr. William Griffiths, who died in 1870, when the house was converted into two shops, among the occupiers being Mr. John Lewis, hairdresser, Mrs. Higgs (who removed to the Cross), Messrs. Stead & Simpson, Mr. William George, boot dealer, Miss Hughes, draper, and Miss Gold.

No. 24, Star Inn. This name appears in the Parish Registers so far back as 1683, since when the premises must have been rebuilt. In 1715 the house is described as being in Cross Street, from the fact that it can be approached along a passage adjoining No. 27 in that street. The following have been occupiers :— Messrs. George Edwards (1683), Jonas Turner (1728), Thomas Lewis (1739), Edward Evans (1745), George Paston (1764), Richard Redrobe (1810), Charles Green (1838), Edward Jones (1835), Richard Wood (1836), George Rees (1840), Samuel Drury (1845), William Edwards (1849), (Mrs.) Elizabeth Roberts (1856), Henry Parry (1862), John Foulkes (1866),

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William Smith (1872), Edward Davies (1873), (Mrs.) Ann Davies (1880), Edward Mullard (1882), Humphrey Jones (1885), and John F. Roberts (1892).

No. 22 (The Oriel), was occupied in 1845 by Mr. Thomas McKiernin, who afterwards removed to No. 34. He was succeeded by Mr. Richard Davies, salt merchant, who was followed by Mr. John Price, shoemaker, from No. 29. The place was then converted into a temperance house.

No. 20, Newry House (Miss O'Hare), was originally a half-timbered structure but has been refronted. The small kitchen belonging has in it six door openings and the one side is nearly occupied by an ancient fire place with a child's seat formed in each of the jambs thereof. A panel of the timber frame work in front bedroom is filled in with heraldic arms of the sixteenth century style. The supporters (lions) are much decayed, but through the several coatings of whitewash, there are indications that the original ground work of plaster was green and red. Outlines of the shield and two estoiles also appear but the details necessary for its identification are unfortunately worn away. In 1842 the premises belonged to and were occupied by Mr. Edward Hopkins, draper, who died in 1836, being succeeded by his brother Mr. William Hopkins, who died in 1851. The next tenant was Miss Sarah E. Jones, a dealer in fancy goods, who, about 1856, was succeeded by Messrs. John & Evan Williams, grocers and agricultural seedsmen. The senior partner died in a year or so, after which the business was conducted by Mr. Evan Williams alone, until his death in 1888.

No. 18 (Davies & Son), forms part of No. 20, the timber framing being still visible in the one end thereof. It was a much lower building than No. 20, and the front portion projected some distance into the street. The occupier in 1824 was Mr. John Tomkies, subsequent tenants being Messrs. Owen Williams, Evan Jones, John Foulkes and (in 1845) Edward Owen, tailor. After Mr. Owen's death it was taken into No. 20, and Mr. Evan Williams, some years later, disposed of sufficient ground for widening the side

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path and rebuilt the front in line with No. 20.

No. 16 (Eastman's, Ltd.). In the early part of the last century, the owner and occupier was Mr. Richard Bill, ironmonger, and a member of the town council. He was succeeded by Mr. John Davies, who was followed by Mr. Edward Shaw. Mr. Shaw, born at Shobden, near Leominster, in 1821, came to Oswestry in 1850 and took over the business of Mr. John Davies. He married Miss Salter of Oswestry, was elected upon the town council, mayor in 1869, a justice of the peace for the borough, and after opening new premises in Cross Street, retired in 1892. He was superintendent of St. Oswald's Sunday School for upwards of twenty years, and died at his residence, Plas Wilmot, in 1897. The premises were afterwards occupied by Mr. Jacob Herr, boot dealer, the Misses Van Soest (who named the shop Berlin House), and (for a short time) Miss Hall, who removed here from Gibralter House.

No. 14 (Mr. Hughes) was a store room for No. 16 and afterwards a butcher's shop attached to Messrs. Jones Bros.' establishment opposite.

No. 12, Balmoral House has been occupied by Messrs. Thomas Rowlands, provision dealer (1856), Robert Jones (from Mr. Arthur's establishment, The Cross), who removed to No. 3, Willow Street, Rev. David Hughes, C.M., bookseller (Mrs. Hughes, dressmaker), Thomas Dalziel, clothier, Edward Richards, ale and porter stores, who removed to the Duke of York Inn, William Davies, cabinet maker. and Plimmer & Clay, as "The Magnet boot warehouse."

Adjoining was a passage leading to nine cottages called the Irish yard, the occupiers of which were frequent attendants at the borough police court. Under the scheme for the widening of Cross Street and part of Bailey Street, the block was demolished. Next the passage upon the lower side stood a shop, for many years in the occupation of Henry Syars.

Then came another building just where now stands the Oswestry Castle, but in line with Balmoral House,

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which in 1845 was a beerhouse called The Dun Cow, and kept by Mr. Richard Evans. It was afterwards converted into a butcher's shop for Mr. George Jackson, who was succeeded by Mr. James Roberts. The street at this point was too narrow to allow of a sidepath.

Adjoining, and upon the site of Oswestry Castle was a dark shop, with the ground floor much below level of street, and which, in 1862, was occupied by Mrs. Pearce, afterwards Peter Foulkes, fishmonger, and lastly, as a refreshment house by Timothy Miller.

The three last mentioned premises were demolished under a scheme for street improvements.

The Oswestry Castle was erected upon a portion of the surplus ground, in 1901.

The next and forming part of Llwyd's Mansion, was a butcher's shop, for many years in the occupation of Mr. John Edwards, and lastly of Mr. William Marsh.

Other public houses in this street were the Buck Inn (Edward Williams, 1737), and Crown Inn. (Mary Griffiths, 1739 and Andrew Rogers, 1750).

CROSS STREET.

Entering Cross Street, the first building upon the left is that known as Llwyd's Mansion. This fine half-timbered structure is believed to have been erected by John Lloyd (Llwyd) of Llanforda, who died in 1634. John Lloyd was the grandson of John Lloyd of Llwynymaen (living in 1544) who inherited Llanforda, and son of John Lloyd (living in 1588) by Margaret, daughter of Sir Roger Kynaston, Knt. He married Mary Lettice, daughter of George Caulfield, of Oxfordshire, Judge of North Wales and Baron Charlemont, and their eldest son was Colonel Edward Lloyd, head of the Royalist Forces at the siege of the town in 1643. (H. W. G., in *Bye Gones.*)

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LLWYD'S MANSION, before the Renovation of 1875. (Page 212).

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The south front of this building bears the arms of the family (an eagle displayed with two necks) and the date of erection, 1604. The story of the acquisition of the arms (gathered from *Arch. Camb.*, Vol. II., and *Bye Gones*) is as follows :—In the days of Richard I. Meurig Llwyd (ap Bleddyn Fychan, ap Bleddyn Llwyd, ap Bleddyn, ap Gwion, ap Cadfach, ap Arseth, ap Gwrgi, ap Hedd Molwynog lord of Uwch Aled and chief of one of the noble tribes of Gwynedd, who lived at Llys-maes-yr-Henllys in the parish of Llangerniew) finding that certain English lords had established themselves and so oppressed his countrymen and ancient possessors of the land that they could not obtain right or justice, became so incensed with anger that he marched at the head of his brave tenantry to a place in Dyffryn Clwyd where the Officers of the Crown executed the laws, and there slew one of the judges as he sat upon the bench, and, taking prisoners many of the other officers, hanged them upon oak trees in Uwch Dulas, as a warning to the English to be more just in future. Such a course of conduct however brought upon him the vengeance of his enemies. His inheritance and belongings in Denbigh-land were seized and himself pursued with such ardour that he was obliged to fly for protection to the Sanctuary of Halston at Whittington, (churches in those days were places of refuge and persons sheltering therein were generally safe from ill treatment) where he placed himself under the wing of William Fitzalan, lord of Oswestry. Just then, Cour-de-Lion was too much devoted to crusading (an expedition conducted for driving the infidels from Jerusalem and the adjoining countries) to give attention to home troubles, and our hero, seeing that by embracing the King's pet project there was a chance of his getting clear out of the country, accepted Fitzalan's offer of a commission to levy a number of soldiers from the Marches. With those men he set off in his sanguinary travels, and, as narrated by John Reynolds of Oswestry (1739),

" He was made general of the Army in the besieging of Acon

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in Asia (Anno Dom. 1190) where he behaved himself with such dexterous attempts, as was most admirable to the spectators, in which siege when the enemies had gotten the Emperor's standard, by scaling the walls, he soon regained and restored it to the Emperor, for which invincible courage the coat of armour was given him by the Emperor, the which his posterity bears to this day, viz.: Argent, an eagle displayed with two necks, sable, beaked and armed, Or, not differing from the Emperor's coat but only in the field, which was, Or."

The Emperor mentioned was the Emperor of Austria, and the eagle displayed, which is now to be seen on the front of this building, is the Austrian eagle. On his return to Wales Meurig married the heiress of Llwynymaen and Llanforda, Annesta, daughter of Ieuan Fychan (ab Ieuan, ab Cuhelyn, ab Rhun, ab Einion Efell, Lord of Cynllaith) and his son ,Griffith, married the heiress of Ieuan Gethin of Lloran Ucha and Moeliwrch.

Colonel Edward Lloyd, before referred to, who died 13th February, 1662, was buried in the Llanforda vault on the north aisle of St. Oswald's Church, and when the restorations were being carried out in 1872, a stone slab was discovered upon which was carved an Austrian Eagle, and the following :—

"When all was out of countenance, here lies
One who then durst be loyal, just and wise."

His wife, Frances, (daughter of Sir Edward Trevor of Brynkinallt) who died in December, 1661, is buried in the same vault upon which is the following inscription :—

"She bore her sexe with peril of her life,
A loyal subject and a loving wife.
Her God and King restorde her heart run 'ore
More than brimful with joy could hold no more."

(H. W. G. in *Bye-Gones.*)

The earliest occupier that can be traced is Mr. Joseph Salter, who was here about 150 years ago. The Salters were a large family about the time of Henry III. and their home appears to have been in Oswestry, though it is said they made their wealth by manufacturing salt from the brine springs of North Shropshire and Cheshire. Some of them attained eminence, one, Sir Thomas Salter (of another branch)

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was Gentleman of the Privy Chamber to Henry VIII, and his only daughter married Sir Thomas Hanmer of Hanmer, Flintshire, another, from Oswestry, was Chief Justice of North Wales and High Steward of Salop in 1521, and another, Sir Nicholas Salter, was one of the founders of the East India Company (*Mont. Coll.*). The occupier of these premises, Mr. Joseph Salter, carried on various businesses, one of which was printing, for "A Collection of Psalms, Printed by J. Salter 1789" is noted in *Bye-Gones*. His son, Robert, author of the "Modern Angler," published in 1800, although a Watchmaker by trade, purchased a site in Bailey Street, erected a shop (now No. 34) and opened it in the seed business. Another son, Thomas, who in 1792, married Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Richard Moody of the Bell Inn, was a timber merchant and lived in Lower Brook Street, and another son, Jackson, became a printer, and had two apprentices—William Edwards (father of Mr. Thomas Edwards, printer, Bailey Street and The Cross) and William Price, both of whom, afterwards set up for themselves in the town.

The next occupier was Mr. George Higham, gunsmith, who, in 1854, retired in favour of his son, Mr. Samuel Higham, that shortly afterwards removed to No. 5 Bailey Street.

Mr. Higham was succeeded here by Mr. John Taylor, Shoemaker, who ,with his son and partner, occupied until 1875. The owner for about the half of last century was Dr. E. D. Bennion of Castle House and Summer Hill, his successor being Mrs. Fanny Dean, who in 1875 disposed of the entire block to Mr. Stanley Leighton of Sweeney Hall. The building required renovating, but before ordering the work Mr. Leighton offered land for the widening of Bailey Street, provided his right to build upon the extreme foundation of the shoring was not interfered with, and he was allowed to carry the gable end over Bailey Street, in order to preserve the character of the house there and the front in Cross Street. The renovation was duly carried out by Mr. Frank

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Chaplin (Messrs. Morris, Chaplin & Corney). Upon completion, the front portion (in Cross Street) was taken by the Midland Banking Company, who came in from old Paris House, Market Street, and Mr. George Dutton (now Messrs. Dutton, Son & Bradshaw), grocer, of Chester, opened No. 1, Bailey Street. Mr. Thomas James Bradshaw was Mayor in 1914.

No. 3, Cross Street (Wyleys) forms part of Llwyd's mansion, and after the renovation in 1876, was taken by Mr. W. F. Plimmer, brazier, who removed to Wolverhampton and was succeeded by the People's Tea Co., with Mr. Thompson as manager. Then followed Frisby Bros., Boot Dealers, and Mr. Jacob Herr, who died in 1900.

Before dealing with the widening of this part of Cross Street, and the re-erection of the whole of the buildings on the left side from Llwyd's Mansion to No. 27 (Hollywell), the old buildings(of which there were twelve), shall first be taken.

1. A dwellinghouse and shop, occupied for about three quarters of a century, by two generations of hair dressers—Mr. Abraham Morgan (died 1854) and Mr. John Morgan. It was the most aristocratic hair-cutting establishment in the town. The celebrated Jack Mytton of Halston used to frequent the place and many were the pranks and practised jokes he is reported to have played there. In "*Childish Reminiscences*" Mr. John Morgan is referred to as follows :—

"Old hairdresser who told the children wonderful tales as he cut off their curls,
And all the children loved him well, and the grown-up people too,
He was so full of fun and jest, his like I never knew."

2. Old Glasgow House was in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Savin (uncle of the late Mr. Savin, of Plasffynnon) who died in 1846, when his stock of drapery, etc., was purchased by Mr. Edward Morris, who carried on business at what is now No. 27, Cross Street (Mr. Hollywell), but these premises were reopened immediately by two of Mr. Savin's assistants

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Messrs. James Teece and Thomas Peate) as Teece & Peate. They continued until 1852 when the business was taken over by Mr. Maurice Roberts. Mr. Teece went to reside at Llandrinio, where he died in 1889. Mr. Roberts retired in 1862 in favour of Mr. Robert Lloyd, who came from No. 2, Albion Hill. Mr. Lloyd, born at Harlech in 1836, came to Oswestry in 1855, when he entered the service of Messrs. Morris & Savin, at No. 27, Cross Street. After this he was in the employ of Messrs. Davies, Roberts & Co., as traveller, but started in business on his own account, in Albion Hill in 1861. He married Miss Thomas, of Plasnewydd Ruthin, was a member of the Town Council, and Mayor in 1885, when he was instrumental in starting an annual Christmas Dinner for the poor. He was appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1893.

3. In 1845 this was in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Rogers, a dealer in fishing requisites, and he was succeeded by his daughter, Miss Jane Rogers, who also managed the Depöt of the S.P.C.K. The last named, in 1866, was followed by Mr. G. E. Evans, watchmaker, who remained until the sale of the premises.

4. With this shop finished the one side of Cross Street, which, years ago, commenced with Mr. Bradley's premises, now 28, Church Street. The last occupier here was Mr. William George, boot dealer, who also as successor of Miss Rogers of No. 3, kept the depöt of the S.P.C.K.

5. In 1862 was occupied by Mr. John Thompson, dyer, who was succeeded by Mr. Edwin Wilde, butcher,

6. In the fifties this was held by Mr. Aaron Lyons, a Jew dealer in clocks, watches, and cheap jewellery. Aaron was very particular in his religious observances, and when purchasing cheese from Mr. David Roberts at the Crown Shop opposite, he would exclaim " Vipe the knife, Mr. Roberts, vipe the knife," fearing it might have been used in the cutting of bacon. A mysterious fire broke out upon his

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premises one night, and at the Salop Assizes of July, 1858, he was convicted on the charge of "setting fire to his dwellinghouse with intent to defraud an Insurance Company," and sentenced to three years penal servitude.

Lyons was succeeded by Mr. T. Clay, watchmaker, who was followed by Mr. David Morris, whose wife was a fruiterer and greengrocer.

7 was for many years occupied by Mr. Richard Davies, butcher (father of Mr. R. T. Davies, 57, Church Street), who was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Furmstone in the same business.

8, in 1845, was occupied by Mrs. Anne Ellis, greengrocer, afterwards by her daughter, Miss Martha Ellis, who became the wife of Mr. John Jones, provision dealer, No. 2, Church Street. The next occupier was Mr. John Davies, hairdresser.

9. Early in the fifties the occupier was Mr. John Jones, hairdresser, a comical character, usually known as "Jack the barber." One day, Jim Russell, a well-known character of a jovial turn, entered the shop, and sat himself down for a shave. When his face was well lathered, he suddenly told Jack that he wanted his throat cut, being tired of his life. "All right," said Jack, coolly, "sit still a moment, and I'll soon do it," Taking up a razor, which he had just dipped in boiling water, Jack drew the back of the instrument across the bare throat of the victim. Russell no sooner felt the sting of the scalding blade, than he thought the deed had been done in reality, so, jumping up from his seat, with a desperate howl, and clasping his neck, he rushed from the shop in wild terror, all lathered as he was, bellowing as he tore up the street, "He's cut my throat, he's cut my throat!" Jack quickly followed at his heels, shouting, "Shut up, you fool, you'll spoil my trade," but failed to overtake him. (*Owen's Reminiscences*). Poor Jack came to an untimely end, for upon returning home from Ellesmere Races he accidently slipped into the Canal and was drowned.

Jack's successor was Mrs. Thomas Tunna,

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dressmaker (mother of Mr. T. F. Tunna, Food Controller), who afterwards removed to the Coney Green, and was followed here by Mr. David Roberts, bookseller and newsagent, who also, with Mr. Thomas Roberts of Willow Street, carried on a printing business for a short time.

10. In 1845 this was occupied by Mr. Richard Wood, whose wife was an upholsteress, being succeeded by Mr. Darbyshire, clogger, and lastly, Mrs. David Bowyer, fishmonger.

11. was known as Marion House, for many years occupied by Mr. Henry Davies, tailor, who died in 1878. In the fifties, a portion of the front was occupied by Mr. Edward Evans, Auctioneer (father of Mrs. Joseph Grindley, confectioner). After Mr. Davies' death the shop was opened by Mr. Owen Pritchard, draper, who continued until the place was demolished.

12, was the Horse Shoe Inn, of which the following were occupiers :—Messrs. William Jones (1828); Edward Foulkes (1845); William Jones, Richard Holden (1852); John Ruscoe (1859), who died in 1872; George Guage (1868), and Robert Jones.

Nos. 5 to 12, were small, dilapidated and squalid looking half-timber buildings, and the street, fronting, very narrow and dangerous, in one place only seventeen feet wide, to take the heavy traffic passing that way to the railway stations, whilst the sidepath barely allowed of pedestrians moving in single file. In 1880, the Town Council resolved to purchase the sites of No. 1–12, demolish the buildings, widen the street, construct a side path, and resell the surplus land, towards the carrying out of which, the late Alderman John Morris generously contributed the sum of £1000. The ground upon which now stands Glasgow House (5, 7, 9, 11, and 13, Cross Street) was secured by Mr. Robert Lloyd, the occupier of old Glasgow House. Mr. Lloyd died in 1897, when the business was taken over by Messrs. Evan Jones and William Morris of Waterloo House, and Mr. E. R. Jones (son of Mr. David Jones, The Green,

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Llanfyllin, and who was previously with Mr. Robert Lloyd), under the style of Jones, Morris & Jones. Mr. Evan Jones died in 1909, since when the business has been carried on by the survivors, under the style of Morris & Jones. Mr. William Morris has served many years upon the County and Town Councils, and was elected Mayor of the Borough in November, 1918.

No. 19 (Gas Co.). The site of this was purchased by Mr. Edward Shaw, Ironmonger, Bailey Street, the price paid (at public auction) being £12 10s. per square yard. After the erection of the building, Mr. Shaw was joined in the business by Mr. E. M. Gardner, who died in 1900.

No. 21 (Mr. Lewis). The purchaser of this site was Mr. Evan Williams, Grocer, Bailey Street, who gave £10 10s. per square yard, and the building, when completed, was taken by Messrs. C. K. Benson and Co., Family Grocers, of Wrexham.

Nos. 23 and 25. The sites of these, withdrawn at £6 per square yard, were subsequently disposed of privately. The first to occupy No. 25 was Mr. Edward Jones (formerly Jones & Jones, Compton House) who died in 1890, and he was succeeded by Mr. Harry Kenyon who died in 1912.

The following figures show the comparative gross estimated rental of the buildings, Nos. 1–25 inclusive, upon the western side of Cross Street before and after the carrying out of the improvements :—

1874—£283.
1918—£1280.

No. 27 (Mr. Hollywell) was in 1845 occupied by Messrs. Morris & Phillips, Drapers and Grocers. Mr. Edward Morris, Mayor, 1849, was great uncle of Mr. William Morris, Glasgow House. The partnership was dissolved in 1847, when the junior partner, Mr. John Phillips, took over the business of Mr. Lucas, Draper and Grocer, at No. 7, The Cross. In the same year Mr. Morris purchased the stock -in-

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CROSS STREET, before the Alterations.

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trade of Mr. Thomas Savin, Draper and Grocer, who had recently died at Glasgow House, and took into partnership Mr. Savin's nephew, the late Mr. Thomas Savin of Plasffynnon, trading as Morris & Savin, which continued until 1858, when it was dissolved and Mr. Morris was next joined by Mr. John Jones, Hop Merchant, as Morris & Jones, and, afterwards, Morris, Jones & Co. The shop was refronted in 1863, and Mr. Morris died (at Salop House) in 1868, when Mr. John Evans entered the business, the new firm being known as Evans, Jones & Co. Mr. Evans retired in 1874 and Mr. John Jones took in Mr. Edward Jones, trading until 1880, as Jones & Jones. In that year the partnership was dissolved, Mr. Edward Jones carrying on the business alone until taken over by Messrs. Morgan & Smith.

Under the present system of street naming, Cross Street terminates here, and we shall retrace our steps to take up the southern side of the Cross, the first premises being :—

THE CROSS—*continued.*

No. 15 (Messrs. R. & R. Hughes & Co.). These premises have been very much altered, especially the front ground floor. About 1764 they were occupied by Mr. John Croxon, Butcher, who came from Wrexham, and married Alice, daughter of Mr. Richard Jones, Butcher, of this town. The property was afterwards acquired by the Croxon family, and until the demolition, about forty years ago, of a passage between and No. 13, large hooks for the suspension of carcases remained affixed to the beams. Mrs. Alice Croxon died in 1824, at the age of eighty-seven years. The premises were then converted into a Draper's shop for Messrs. Lucas & Jones-Rogers. Mr. Jones-Rogers came from Kinton, his mother being the daughter of Mr. Croxon of Oswestry, and

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upon the death or retirement of Mr. Lucas, he carried on the business until his death, after which it was continued by his widow, Mrs. Lowry Jones-Rogers, who (previous to 1857) took into partnership Mr. Robert Roberts (father of the present Mrs. Brenmer Smith), trading as Jones-Rogers & Roberts. The partnership expired about 1868 when the concern was purchased by Messrs. Edward and Robert Hughes, sons of Mr. Hugh Hughes of Oerley Farm, and upon the death of Mr. Edward Hughes, his brother, Mr. Richard Hughes, was admitted, the firm's name being R. & R. Hughes. Later, some interest was acquired by Mr. Richard Daniel, Mayor, 1900, when the name became R. & R. Hughes & Co. Mr. Daniel died in 1915.

No. 13 (R. & R. Hughes & Co.). In the beginning of last century the occupier was Mr. Thomas Hilditch, Mercer, freeman in 1799, Mayor in 1811, and who, with Mr. Bickerton (Mayor 1784), were the only Nonconformists to fill that office under the Charter of Charles II. Mr. Hilditch was also Deputy-Mayor for the famous Mr. Jack Mytton in 1824. About that time he was joined in the business by Mr. David Thomas (Hilditch & Thomas in 1828) who survived. Mr. Thomas married Miss Wynne of Rhyscog Llangollen, was for many years a member of the Town Council, and died in 1853, aged eighty-one. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. Edward Wynne Thomas, who in 1830, married Jane, daughter of the Rev. John Whitridge. He served on the Town Council, was Mayor 1862, retired from business in 1873 and died in 1881. His successor was his son, Mr. John Whitridge Thomas who, with Mr. Evan Jones, a former asssitant, carried on the business, as Thomas & Jones, until 1880, in which year the premises were taken over by Messrs. R. & R. Hughes & Co., and added to No. 15.

Nos. 11 and 9, Maypole Buildings. Previous to the erection of these, there stood here a remarkable old pile and conspicuous relic of bygone days, known as the Mansion House, which for two generations

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was occupied by Messrs. Poole, Butchers. The interior was roomy and rambling with low ceilings and dumpy windows, belonging to a period when light and air were not appreciated. There was an oak staircase, with beautifully turned balusters, and the panels in the walls were done with twigs. Mr. Richard Poole removed here early in the last century from No. 3, Church Street. He died in 1841, aged eighty-four, and was succeeded by his son Richard, who, with Miss Ann Poole, carried on the business under the style of R. & A. Poole. Mr. Poole died in 1869, but the concern was continued by the surviving partner until taken over by Mr. John Davies of Bailey Street.

A parlour, fronting the street was in 1856 opened as a Bonnet shop by the Misses Jane and Eliza Poole, and which subsequently was carried on by Miss Rose Poole. In 1875, Mr. Edmund Bailey (from the establishment of Mr. E. Wynne Thomas) started a Grocery business, and in 1880, Mrs. Higgs, Milliner, removed here from Osborne House.

No. 7 (Messrs. E. Thomas & Co.). In 1830 this comprised two shops, the larger portion being occupied by Mr. Samuel Roberts (father of Mr. J. Askew Roberts), Printer and Bookseller, and the other by the Misses Hughes and Jones, Milliners. Mr. Samuel Roberts was the son of Mr. Joseph Roberts and Sarah (Bickerton) his wife, of Duddleston, educated at Hoxton Academy, and in 1814, was ordained pastor of the Congregational Churches at Wollerton and Wistanswick, Salop, in which sphere he enjoyed the friendship of the Rev. Reginald Heber, at that time Rector of Hodnet, but owing to failing health, he resigned the work of the ministry in 1819, took up the business mentioned, in this town, and married, firstly, Miss Whitehouse, and, secondly, a niece of the Rev. John Whitridge, pastor of the Old Chapel. In 1832 he removed to No. 38, Bailey Street,

The next occupier here being Mr. Thomas Lucas, draper, who in 1839, married Harriett Anne, daughter

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of Mr. John Hughes, Savings Bank. Mr. Lucas was succeeded by Mr. John Phillips, Draper, from No. 27, Cross Street, and who in 1857 removed to No. 1, The Cross. In the following year the premises were named Canton House, and opened in the Grocery and Provision business by Mr. Edward Green, who continued until 1865, when he was succeeded by Mr. G. P. Davies, Draper, from No. 21, Willow Street, and changed the shop to Commerce House. Mr. Davies remained for two years (1867) when Messrs. Thomas & Whitfield, Ironmongers, from No. 8, Willow Street, after making considerable structural alterations, removed their business here. Mr. Edward Whitfield withdrew in 1876, since when it has been carried on under the style of E. Thomas &Co. In 1871 the senior partner, Mr. Edward Thomas, married Mary, daughter of Mr. William Ridley Carr, of Scotswood, Northumberland, and died in 1887.

No. 5 (Mr. Corbett) is believed to be the residence and business place of the Bickerton family, several generations of whom were Grocers and Druggists in the town. Many of them were active Nonconformists during a period, says one writer, " when Nonconformists had almost to apologise for presuming to exist," and as far back as 1746 the names of three of them are appended to a document in connection with the Old Chapel. One, Mr. Thomas Bickerton, occupied the Glascoed farm, Llansilin, before the Richards family. Another, Mr. Richard Bickerton, married Martha Hilditch of Oswestry, and the register of the Old Chapel records the baptism of several of their children. This Mr. Bickerton, freeman in 1785, was Mayor in 1784, and in a report issued in 1809, of the Sunday and Day Schools connected with the Old Chapel (which then were the only institutions of the kind existing in the town) his name appears as one of the Committee. In 1828 the business was under the name of Bickerton & Williams. The last of the family who traded here was Mr. Samuel Bickerton in partnership with Mr. George James Saunders, under the style of Bickerton and

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Saunders, but in a few years he retired to Wem, where he died. Mr. Saunders, whose mother was daughter of Mr. Wood, proprietor of the *Shrewsbury Chronicle*, (of which family the late Sir Evelyn Wood was the most distinguished representative), came to this town from Bridgnorth, and married, firstly, Anne, daughter of the Rev. Rowland Williams, Vicar of Meifod, and secondly, Mary, daughter of Mr. Thomas Ward of Crickheath. He acted as Superintendent of the sixty Special Constables sworn in at Oswestry at the time of the great Fenian Scare in the sixties, was Mayor in 1867, and died in 1882.

No. 3 (Cash & Co.) was, in the beginning of last century in the occupation of Mr. Francis Campbell, Watchmaker, second Mayor under the Municipal Corporations Act, and who died in 1841, aged seventy-three. Another occupier was Mr. Evan Arthur (father of Mr. J. P. Arthur, of Smithfield Stables), Grocer and Confectioner, who in 1858 removed to the Wern Mill, and was followed here by Mr. David Edward Lloyd of No. 6. The Cross, and father of the Misses Lloyd of No. 48, Park Avenue. Mr. Lloyd continued in business until his death in 1882, when he was succeeded by Mr. Edward Manford, and afterwards Messrs. Morgan Bros.

No. 1 (Hepworths) was in 1828 occupied by Mr. William Jones, Grocer and Ironmonger, and later by Mr. John Jones (known as the " Black Prince ") who was followed by Mr. J. E. Fisher. In 1853 Mr. Fisher disposed of his stock-in-trade (Ironmongery) to Mr. John Minshall of Bailey Street, these premises being taken by Mr. Robert Williams, Draper and Grocer, from No. 18, Church Street. Mr. Williams retired in 1857, went to reside at Greenfields, but afterwards took up the business of a Lime Burner at Porthywaen. He died in 1866. One of his sons, Mr. Henry Williams, was a Missionary in India. He died from the effects of an operation in 1890. Mr. Robert Williams' stock-in-trade was taken over by Messrs. John and Edward Phillips, who removed here from

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No. 7. The Cross. Mr. John Phillips, Mayor, 1859, died in 1870, and his son ,Mr. John Hopkins Phillips in 1874, and Mr. Thomas Phillips, the last of the family, (who retired in 1883) in 1885. The business was afterwards taken over by Messrs. Davies & Edwards of Waterloo House (No. 5, Church Street), and during their occupation the front was rebuilt and some internal alterations carried out. Mr. Henry Edwards died in 1915 and Mr. William Vincent Davies in 1917.

By his will, dated 16 June, 1874, the above-named John Hopkins Phillips gave £500 ,the income of which was to be paid to the Churchwardens of St. Oswald's, for division on September 3rd among the Poor of Oswestry. At the last Inquiry it was stated that the amount was invested in Consols and the income ,£12 16s. 9d., carried to the general fund for distribution in the unvarying sums of two shillings.

CROSS STREET—*continued*

With the next house commences the (present) eastern side of Cross Street.

No. 2 (Olivers) has been refronted.

Nos. 2 and 4 were formerly one holding, No. 4 being a parlour, with separate entrance, was sublet. The occupier in 1820 was Mr. William Cathrall, Publisher of *Oswestry Herald* Newspaper. Upon the books of the Shropshire Quarter Sessions is the following record :—

"4 Feb., 1820, William Cathrall gave notice that he had a printing press and types, which he proposed using for printing in a house situate in Cross Street, Oswestry, under an Act passed in the 39th year of George III., entitled An Act for the more effectual suppression of Societies established for treasonable purposes, and for better preventing treasonable and seditious practices."

The paper made its appearance on March 21st, 1820, and discontinued Tuesday, Decr. 31st, 1822, being swamped by excessive taxation, for in those days newspaper stamp-duty was 4d., and advertisement duty 3s. 6d. on each advertisement.

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Mr. Cathrall was succeeded by Mr. William Price, Printer (who served his apprenticeship with Mr. Jackson Salter at Llwyd's Mansion) and Publisher (in Beatrice Street), of the *History of Oswestry* in 1815. He was followed by his son William, (born 1806) who in the early forties removed to No. 6 (Mr. Carter's). The next occupier (in 1848) was Mr. George Edwards, Bootmaker, who died in 1856, when Mr. William Owen, Watchmaker, from the Cross, came in. Mr. Owen was assisted by his son William, and traded as Wm. Owen & Son. Mr, Owen, senior, died in 1867 and his son in 1883. The portion forming No. 2, was then taken (temporarily) by the Oswestry Public House Company, whilst some alterations were being carried out to the Oswestry Castle in Bailey Street. The next occupier was Mr. William Howard, Draper (who advertised it as "the shop with one window") and he was succeeded by Messrs. Phillips & Sons, Grocers (who in 1886 removed to the Golden Eagle, No. 21, The Cross), and Mr. William George the Central Boot Stores.

The other portion (now No. 4) was taken by S. H. Coombs, Boot and Shoemaker, until his removal to No. 8, Church Street. Mr. Charles Monk, Stationer, from No. 6, and Mr. George Duncombe, who in 1883, removed here from No. 12, Leg Street.

No. 6 (Mr. Carter), belonged to the Croxon family, and in 1820, was occupied by Messrs. Croxon and Lucas, Drapers, On May 10th of that year a daring robbery was effected on the premises by Samuel Lewis, member of a notorious confederacy of housebreakers and highway-men, known as the Redheath gang, residing in the neighbourhood of Congleton, and who, to evade the vigilance of justice, fled to Oswestry and became tenant of the Plough Inn, Beatrice Street. Special Constable John Tomkins proved the finding of thirty-five picklock keys, a dark lantern, two disguises robber's jackets and several other instruments for housebreaking that were concealed under some straw in a stable loft belonging to the house occupied by Lewis. The

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man was duly tried, and convicted, and executed at Shrewsbury on 12th August, 1820.

Mr. John Croxon and his partner, Mr. Francis Lucas, were successful candidates for seats on the Town Council at the first election held after the passing of the Municipal Corporations Reform Act of 1835, and Mr. Croxon became Mayor. The next occupier was Mr. William Price, Printer, who removed here from No. 2 and 4 adjoining. He was Mayor in 1844 and, it is said, the first tradesman in the town to have plate-glass inserted in a shop window. In a few years he was succeeded by Mr. John Morgan, Bookseller, Printer and Stationer, and who also managed the Depöt of the S.P.C.K. He was followed by Mr. C. H. Barnett who afterwards disposed of the business to Mr. George Lewis, when his manager, Mr. Edwin George Monk, brother of Dr. W. H. Monk, one of the Editors of "*Hymns Ancient and Modern*," opened on his own account, but, in 1865, removed to No. 4 adjoining. About that time the property was acquired by Mr. W. H. G. Weaver who came into occupation from the bottom of Bailey Street. Mr. Weaver continued for some years, then retired, and went to reside at Tymaen, Lower Brook Street.

No. 8 (Miss Van Soest) was in 1845 occupied by Mrs. Rebecca Longmere, who soon afterwards was succeeded by Miss Gwen Jones, China Dealer, who retired in 1864, being then followed by Mr. Newman Jeffery in the same business. In 1884, Mrs. Higgs, Milliner, removed here from the Cross, and continued until 1890, when she retired in favour of the Misses Van Soest, who came in from No. 16, Bailey Street.

No. 10, the one-storeyed building adjoining, and belonging to No. 8, was frequently sublet. The Post Office was here for some time after being at the Commercial Hotel, Bailey Street, probably in 1831, when Miss Babbington, who for so many years was Postmistress, received her appointment. It was removed to 17, Willow Street in 1839, when this building was again taken over by the occupiers of

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229 Photo, Mr. Henry Jones.

SOUTH SIDE OF Nos. 12 and 14, CROSS STREET (The Vicarage of 1748). (Page 229)

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No. 8 until Mr. Jeffery's retirement, when the place was let successively to Messrs. B. Kavanagh, J. F. Sneyd, John Heath and Syars, all Tobacconists.

No. 12 (Messrs. Gough & Lacey) is another one-storeyed building, agreeing with No. 10, and probably erected when it was all one property. This was occupied as an office for nearly a century by the Owen Family, Wholesale Wine and Spirit Merchants. Mr. George Dorsett Owen was elected on the Council in 1835, died in 1839, and was succeeded by his widow, Mrs. Jane Emma Owen, who died in 1859, after which her son, Mr. Charles Whitley Owen, (referred to under No. 39, Church Street) carried on the business until the transfer, in part, to his cousins, Messrs. John and Francis Dorsett Owen.

Nos. 12 and 14 (Wine Vaults, &c.). The earliest mention of this place is in 1748, when Miss Margaret Godolphin, of Abertanat, by deed bearing date the 2nd of March of that year, gave the messuage, with a seat or pew in the Parish Church, belonging, unto Robert Williams of Oswestry, Esquire, to the use of the Vicar of Oswestry for the time being, provided he should live in the said house, also a malt kiln, and some straw-thatched buildings situate in the rear and belonging, the rents of which were to be applied in repairing the first mentioned premises, provided that in case the then Vicar (Rev. Thomas Trevor) and his successors should not reside on the premises, the same should be let yearly and the rents and profits paid to the Churchwardens of that part of the parish lying without the town, to be applied in placing out poor fatherless children apprentices born in the said division whose names should not be in the poor's book.

The benefactress, Miss Godolphin, was the eldest daughter of Colonel Sidney Godolphin and Susanna, youngest daughter of Rhys Tanat, heiress of Abertanat, and the last of the family of Tanats. She resided at Abertanat, where she died on the fifth October, 1766, aged ninety years, and was buried at Llanyblodwel, on the tenth of the same month, "her

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funeral being attended by as many old women, dressed in white flannel gowns, as she was years of age, and it was said that her ghost, attired in black silk, sitting on the Coetiauduon stile, with her little dog close by her, just as she used to be when alive, was, though dead, the terror of every passer by after night fall."—*By-Gones*. Her niece, Mary, married William Owen, of Porkington (Brogyntyn), and it was this connection with Oswestry, possibly, which dictated her bequest to the Vicar.

According to the Reports upon the Charities of the town, issued in the beginning of last century, these premises do not appear to have been occupied by the Vicar, but were let by the Overseers and the rents therefrom improperly carried to the general account of the Poors rate, until 1823, when an exchange was made with Mr. John Croxon for more convenient premises in Upper Brook Street.

At that time the occupier was Mrs. Jane Lloyd, widow, afterwards (in part) Mr. Thomas Evans, Flour Dealer, while a portion was converted into a public house called the " Red Cow," the last tenant of which was Mr. Edward Foulkes, who was also a well-known breeder of race-horses. The business of the house was usually conducted by his wife. It is related that on a Sunday afternoon in the summer, when a party suffering from Saturday night's revelry, were here for revivers after hours, a knock was heard at the side door, whereupon Mrs. Foulkes immediately but silently ushered her customers into the cellar, then opened the side door and welcomed in a couple of policemen, who doubtless called upon the usual pretences, but nevertheless stayed a while and had their thirst quenched. After their departure the good lady of the house went to call forth her other customers, when she found that through helping themselves too freely from the tempting taps around them they had become helplessly drunk. After the discontinuance of the license and rebuilding of the front, a portion of the premises was formed into a drinking vaults, and attached to No. 10 and a shop

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(No. 14) made of the remainder. The rear part was untouched and remains as illustrated. The shop, No. 14, was opened by Miss Hannah Phillips, Boot Dealer, who in 1865 was succeeded by Miss Harriett Gittins in the same business. The next occupier was Mrs. D. A. Williams, Milliner.

No. 16 (Astons). It is believed that the town Charity School was upon these premises, for in the Vestry and other parochial books, the institution is frequently referred to as being situate "in Cross Street." The following is extracted from "An account of Charity Schools in Great Britain and Ireland," printed in 1712.

"Oswestry, Shropshire—Forty children cloathed and taught by a Mistress to read and to give an account of Mr. Lewis's Exposition and the Abridgement of the History of the Bible, by Heart, beside Mr. Turner's spelling-book, and the Catechism book in short questions. And when any child can perform all this the Mistress hath a reward of 7s. 6d. After which the Boys are sent to a Master, who teaches them to write and cipher for 5s. a Head, which is paid as soon as they have made such progress as the Minister judges sufficient for their purpose. But the girls are taught to spin, knit and sew, for 10s. each. And these rates are allowed for their learning whether the Time be long or short. To put them forward 20 are set to strive against 20 for shoes, and the 20 that get most of the Exposition and other Books by Heart, have shoes. Then there remains 10 against 10 and so on until they are shod all round. A shift is hung up in the school for the best Spinner, a Head-dress for the best Sewer, a pair of Stockings for the best Knitter, a Bible for the best Reader and a Copybook for the best Writer. The Subscriptions are about £10 per annum besides the Offertory (Sacrament) of £7 or £8 more."

The building also served as a Poor House for the town. In the Parish Book for 1737 is the following entry:

"An Account of the labour and repairs to the Poor House, by order of the Vestry:—

Job Sadler, for the Bricklayers and Plasterers	10	12	0
Morris Hughes for slating	8	10	0
Thomas Jones, Carpenter and Joyner's work	1	18	0."

The foregoing expenses were defrayed by the sale of part of the principal representing Sir John Swinnerton's Charity to the Poor of the town.

A new House of Industry having been erected at

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Morda in 1792, the following was passed at a Vestry :

" It is agreed by us the undersigned that we let, and Jane Lloyd (now tenant) and William Davies, Saddler, take the old Workhouse situate in Cross Street, at a rent of £30 per annum for the term of seven years,"

and again on 9th November, 1817 :—

" Resolved that it is expedient that the premises occupied by Mrs. Jane Lloyd be sold by public auction on Wednesday, 7th day of January, at the Cross Foxes, between the hours of six and eight in the afternoon."

There is no further entry, for Vestries were frequently held at public-houses and no record of the proceedings taken, but the purchaser of the property was probably Mr. John Croxon, for in more recent assessments this family are shown as owners of Nos. 4 to 16 inclusive. The part fronting Cross Street, a two-storeyed building, with two small windows to ground floor, was left standing for many years afterwards, being occupied by Mr. Howell, Brazier, who was succeeded by Mr. David Roberts, Grocer and Confectioner, father of Messrs. Thomas Roberts, Cambrian House, and David Roberts, Accountant, Old Bank. The floor at that time was much below the street level, and the entrance, as was then the practice, protected by a small wicket to which a bell was attached. Later, the front was rebuilt and the place named " The Crown Shop," the occupier being Mr. R. Howell Davies, Draper, until his removal, in 1875, to the Golden Eagle, No. 21, The Cross, when Mr. Matthew Henry Roberts opened in the Grocery business. The premises were afterwards rebuilt (as at present) and opened by Mr. Robert Lloyd as the Furnishing Department of Glasgow House, and after his death the occupier was (for a short time) his son, Mr. Robert Rees Lloyd, who died in 1900. Subsequent occupiers have been Messrs. Roberts & Morris and Hughes & Parry.

Under the old system of street naming, the eastern side of Cross Street, which commenced at the Newgate (now 27, Church Street), finished off here, and Leg Street, reaching to the end of the Quadrant, in one direction, and to the entrance to Coney Green,

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opposite the Bear Inn, in the other.

According to the parish registers there were in this old Cross Street two public houses that cannot now be located, one of which was "The Sign of ye Harpe" occupied by Hugh Jones, 1670, Griffith Evans, 1675, Hugh Jones, 1690, and Richard Lloyd, 1698, and the other "The Cross Guns," tenanted from 1747 to 1754 by John Evans, and Martha Evans (mother of Mr. Edward Wynne Evans, Mayor, 1782) who died in 1788, and is described as of the "Cross Guns."

At the present time Cross Street continues as far as The Library.

Nos. 18 and 20 (Mr. Espley) is a block of half-timbered buildings with the lintel of a dormer window at the rear elaborately carved. It was formerly one holding and in 1812 was occupied by Mr. George Morrall, Druggist. Forty years later the tenant was Mr. William Cowdell, Printer and Stationer, who let a portion of it to the Stamp Distributor (Mr. Edward Williams, Solicitor), Mr. George Lewis acting as assistant. Mr. Lewis subsequently took over Mr. Cowdell's business, and about 1859 removed, with the Stamp Office, to his new premises—The Library, being succeeded here by Mr. J. E. Howell Matthews, Watchmaker, from 32, Bailey Street. Mr. Howell was followed in 1862 by Mr. Isaac Thomas Parry, Grocer and Haberdasher, but who afterwards went into the jewellery and tobacco business. Mr. Parry remained for about twenty-five years and when he retired the shops were let separately, the following being some of the occupiers:—Messrs. W. Godfrey, Watchmaker; Edward Roberts, Clothier; Harris, Tobacconist; J. W. Williams, Newsagent; Mrs. Jones Roberts, Confectioner, and Mrs Trevor Turner.

Nos. 22 and 24 (Barclay's Bank) were formerly part of the Cross Keys Hotel property when the frontage went around and included the site of Rutland Buildings, but in 1859, were separated and taken by Mr. Joseph Grindley, Confectioner, from Mr. Evan Arthur's establishment, No. 3, The Cross. Mr.

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Grindley occupied for upwards of forty years the shop being No. 24 and residence at No. 22. Since Mr. Grindley's retirement the following have occupied one or other of the places :—Messrs. John Walker, Confectioner ; Charles Edwards, Baker ; and Johnson Bros., Dyers.

No. 26 was also part of the Cross Keys holding and has only recently been separated therefrom.

The Cross Keys Hotel takes its name from the arms of the Papal See, and as " ye Cross Keyes " appears in the Parish Registers as early as 1693. Its bold commanding frontage which included The Library (separated about sixty years ago) made it a place of note during the old coaching days, for, excepting the few years when the Post Office was at the Wynnstay Arms, the coaches travelling from London to Holyhead came straight up Salop Road, and horses were changed here. In March, 1783, the " Publick Vestry adjourned to the dwellinghouse of Richard Phillips, known by the sign of Cross Keyes in this town." In 1790 the occupier was Mr. Arthur Davies, Mayor, 1784, and who afterwards resided at The Hayes, where he died in 1816. At that time the house was frequently called the " Lower Cross Keys " to distinguish it from the " Upper Cross Keys, afterwards the " Grapes Inn," Willow Street.

The next occupier was Mr. Thomas Hunt, whose advertising card ran thus :—

" CROSS KEYS INN, OSWESTRY.
THOMAS HUNT

(late Butler to Wm. Owen, Esq., of Wood House) respectfully informs his Friends and the Public that he has entered upon the above well situated and old-accustomed Inn," etc.

24 May, 1802.

The premises were offered for sale in 1803, when it was stated that Mr. Hunt paid a rent of £57.

A writer on " *Former Days* " says of that time :—

" I also remember the frequent passing through the town of Irish Members on their way to London, and conspicuous among them the great Dan O'Connell. The Cross Keys was the favourite stopping place for changing horses, and the jolly landlord, Mr.

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Hunt, was so large a man that it is said his coffin had to be taken from the house through the front window, being too large to pass through the Door of the room in which he died."

In 1828 the following Coaches called upon their way :—

The *Royal Mail* from Holyhead, at 9.30 every morning, afterwards proceeding to London *via* Shrewsbury, Birmingham and Coventry.

The Pilot, every morning (Sundays excepted) to Chester, *via* Wrexham.

The Express, Shrewsbury to Holyhead, every morning at eight, and to Shrewsbury every evening at seven.

The Menai, Shrewsbury to Holyhead, at ten, and return coach at three in the afternoon daily.

It was usual for the Coach passengers from Holyhead to take refreshments whilst the horses were being changed. One of them having breakfast, found a chicken in his egg. " Make haste, and ate it," said an Irish gentleman who was present, " for if the waiter sees it, by J—e, but he'l charge you for a *mate* breakfast." (*Shrewsbury Chronicle*, 1824.)

There were sometimes accidents on the way. In July, 1819, as the Holyhead Coach was coming into Oswestry through a narrow street, it was upset and thrown with considerable voilence against one of the houses, but although there were six outside and five inside passengers, not one of them were seriously injured.

Another occupier of the Cross Keys Hotel was Mr. Whittaker, who was succeeded by Mr. David Lloyd that afterwards removed to the Wynnstay Hotel. Mr. Lloyd's successor was Mr. J. E. King, who was here in 1852, being followed in 1859 by Mr. William Jones from the Barley Mow Inn, he remaining until 1875, when the license was transferred to Mrs. Harriet Morris, but only for one year.

Subsequent occupiers were Messrs. William Fisher, James Arundale (1881), Mrs. Arundale and Thomas Edward Jones.

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LEG STREET.

We now enter what is known as Leg Street, which is referred to as far back as the time of Edward II., and in shape, was then supposed to represent the "Three Legs of Man," as upon the Manx Arms, but in some records and parish registers it is sometimes named Blackgate Street, "in which there are thirtie barns maintained for corne and haie with other houses belonging to the townesmen." (*Leland.*)

It is recorded that in 1360, Edmund, Earl of Arundel, granted to his burgesses of Oswestry, in perfect fee farm, two shops situate "in the row which is called Legges Street betwixt the shops of the sons of Richard the Stranger, and the tenement of William son of William, the baker," together with the new pavement at the back of the same, to hold to his said burgesses and their heirs, for ever, rendering to him and his heirs 13s. 4d., in silver, at the feast of St. Michael. These have long since been lost. (*Bye Gones.*)

Under the Turnpikes Act, 1788, power was given to the Trustees to remove obstructions, and it was found that in

"A certain part of a street called Leg Street in the town of Oswestry aforesaid, particularly at an angle of the said street opposite a messuage late in the possession of Margaret Wikey, is very narrow and incommodious for carriages, and such inconvenience can only be remedied by taking down the said messuage, and certain palisades, opposite to a house in the same street, in the possession of Henry Roberts, are likewise incommodious."

The Library, as already stated, was at one time a part of the Cross Keys property, but the whole having been acquired by Mr. George Lewis, he had this portion converted into business premises for himself. The frontage, together with the elaborately decorated walls of the interior were designed by Mr. James Blake, a young architect, who came into the town in the early fifties. The premises were ready for occupation in 1859, when Mr. Lewis came in with the Stamp Office from Nos. 18 and 20, Cross Street. A few years later he purchased the business of Mr.

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THE LIBRARY, formerly part of the Cross Keys Hotel.

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G. H. Barnett at No. 6, Cross Street, which with that of Mr. Cowdell's were amalgamated at the Library, Mr. Lewis being joined by Mr. Thomas Owen, son of Mr. Thomas Owen, of Sweeney, and previously at No. 6, Cross Street, under the style of Lewis & Owen. Mr. Lewis became Secretary and Manager of the Cambrian Railways Company, but retained his interest here for several years afterwards. In 1872 the Stamp Office was removed again to Willow Street, and in 1885 the depot of the S.P.C.K. was brought in from No. 15, Leg Street. The business afterwards became that of Messrs. T. Owen & Son, who published a Monthly Advertising Circular. Mr. Thomas Owen, who married firstly Mary Batten, grand-daughter of Dr. Edward D. Bennion, of Cymybwch, and secondly Mary Sarah, daughter of Mr. William Corney, 15, Church Street, died in 1916, aged 78 years.

Leg Street, right side, Nos. 26–32. It was in one of these that Mr. Griffith Morris, builder, commenced business early in the last century, and Mr. John Brentnall (who came from Criggion in 1823) for many years leading carter in the town, also resided here. The block was purchased in the sixties by Mr. James Faulks of Rutland, who in 1860 established a butcher's business therein.

The Bear Inn. The following have been some of the occupiers :—Messrs. John Hughes (1845), Edward Hughes (1857), Richard Jones (1866), (Mrs.) Jane Jones (1967), Paul Lloyd (1868), William Duncan (1874), (Mrs.) — Duncan (1876), and Brady Last.

SALOP ROAD.

Just opposite the Bear Inn is the site of another of the entrances into the town—Blackgate—and about this again there is but little recorded, beyond the making of presentments (indictments) at Quarter Sessions as to its dilapidated condition, the last of which was in 1767, when the Earl of Powis, as lord

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of the manor, was presented " for not repairing the Black Gate, or taking down or raising it higher, being too low for carriages. If not done in one month, fined Two Pounds Two Shillings." To quote Edwards' *History of Oswestry*, the gate had

" become so low in the arch that loads could scarce go under, having been rendered so by several pavements being put one over the other to repair the street."

THE BLACK GATE.

Up to 1771 the road from Blackgate to Park Issa took a rather zigzag course, and at the latter place turned almost at right angle along what is now Park Street and Vicarage field, and into Victoria Road just opposite main entrance to Cricket field. As the land upon the lower side of the road from Cricket field to Plasffynnon and down beyond Carreglwyd, belonged to the Earl of Powis, the Commissioners appointed for the widening and repairing of the highway leading from Oswestry to Shrewsbury, decided to straighten the road from Blackgate to Park Issa, and to make application to his Lordship for permission to make a new length along the line of a footpath from opposite Park Issa to the junction of the West Felton and Maesbury roads near Carreglwyd, where it was proposed to erect a Toll House, and further, as a crowning act, to demolish the Blackgate, so as to provide an uninterrupted course for the Coaches. The Commissioners met on the 26 September, 1771, when the following was passed :—

" Ordered that application be made to the right honourable the Earl of Powis for Leave to take down the remaining Part of the Black Gate, to make a good Opening from the Town of Oswestry to the Road leading to Shrewsbury, and to make a

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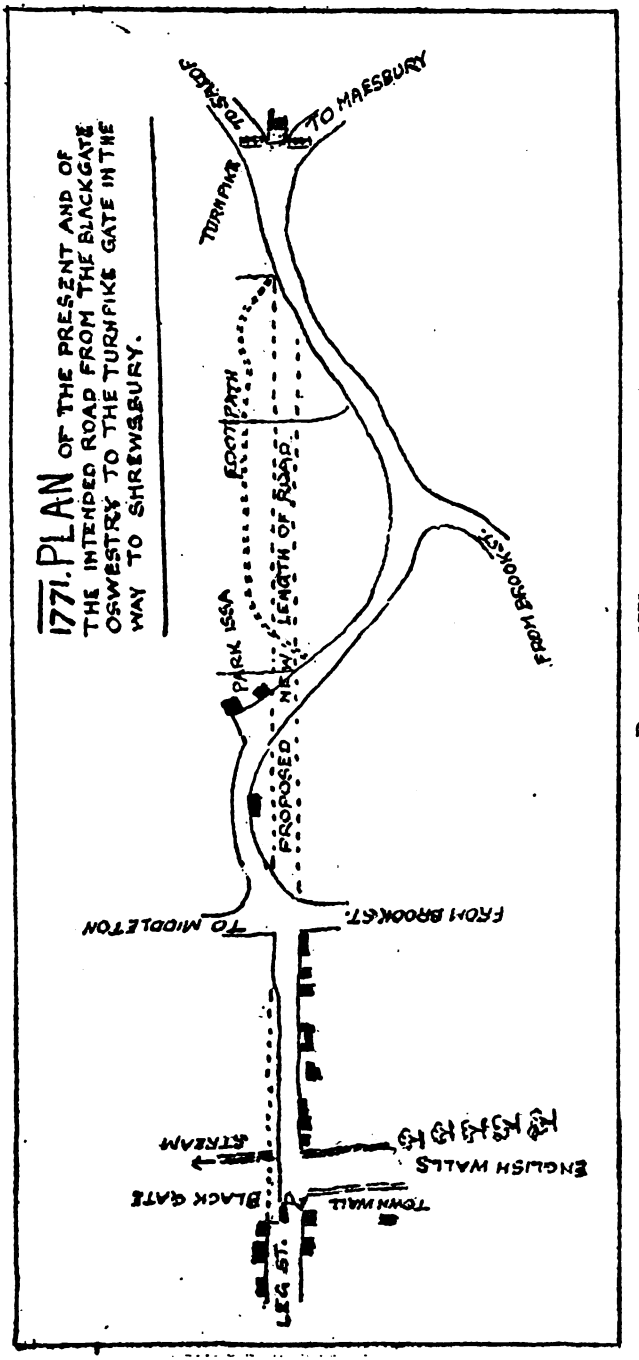

PLAN OF 1771.

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new Road near the Footpath thro' two Fields in the Occupation of John Williams, as represented in the Plan this Day laid before the Trustees. And also to Edward Maurice of Petton, Esqre., for Leave to make a new Road thro' part of Roft-y-Sputty in the Occupation of Richard Byrch Basnett, Esqr. And likewise to Mrs. Williams of Chester for Leave to take in part of a Garden in the holding of William Story, to widen the road near the black Gate. And in case they consent, That the said Road be made under the Direction of the revrd. Mr. Lloyd, Mr. Trevor, Mr. Dixon, Mr. Venables, and Mr. Maurice, And that as much as can be spared of the old Road be given to each of them opposite to their respective Lands. (signed) Richard Maurice, Lloyd Jones, Jo: Venables, Edw. Kynaston, John Tomley, Da: Price, Edwd. Browne."

The foregoing was sent to Lord Powis with the following covering letter :—

" My Lord,

I was desired by the Gentn. at the meeting on thursday last to send the inclosed Plan to your Lordship and to desire leave to improve the approach to this Town from the Shrewsbury road. Mr. Probert has seen the whole and can inform your Lordship of the utility of it to the publick and that it will be of very little detriment to your estate, the old road proposed to be given for the new one containing near the same quantity of land and a recompence will be made for the damage that may be done to the Tenant.

I am, your Lordships most
obedt. Hum. Servt.,
(Sd.) Richd. Maurice.

Oswestry, Sept. 28th, 1771."

On the 5th Oct., 1771, Lord Powis directed his Agent, Mr. Probert,

" To meet the Gentlemen of Oswestry, and examine the propriety of their request and grant them what appeared reasonable, if it was for the Convenience of the Publick."

And upon the 20th Novr., the following was received by the Trustees :—

" The Earl of Powis, in Compliance with the Request of the Gentlemen in and near Oswestry Respecting the taking down the Black Gate of that Town and altering the Turnpike Road leading from thence towards Shrewsbury.

Consent, that the Commissioners shall be at liberty to take down and widen the said Black Gate, so as to make the Passage 24 feet, provided they will put the remaining Wall there in a proper state of Repair, and Build a handsome Pier or Pillar on each Side the Gate Way of hewn Stone. And he also consents that the Commissioners shall have power to cut a straight Road from

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the present Way at the Stile by entering into his Lordship's land now in lease to Mr. John Williams, called Big Meadow and Finger post field, through the same to the Corner of the Banky Piece near the Turnpike Gate on the Shrewsbury Road, the Commissioners giving his Lordship in Lieu thereof the present old Road from the first mentioned Stile to the Road leading from the Shrewsbury Turnpike to the Church of Oswestry. . . . . And he hopes they will (for the Benefit of Foot passengers), make a Walking Way six feet wide on the South side the new Road," etc.

Part of the track of the Old Salop Road is still visible in Trinity Vicarage field opposite the junction of Ferrars Road and Park Street. Blackgate was therefore the first to be cleared away, but it does not appear that the " handsome pier or pillar," stipulated to be erected " on each side the Gate Way " were built, for nobody seems to have any knowledge of them, neither is there a record of their existence.

The value of the Tolls at this Gate in 1770 were £7 and in 1797 (Martha Prynallt, tenant) £8.

Immediately beyond the Gate there was a causeway under which the stream that flowed openly along the English Walls passed on to the Coney Green field where it joined or perhaps formed the main stream through the Plasffynnon and Carreglwyd fields into the Shrewsbury road. Among the presentments (indictments) recorded are the following :—

1737. " We present the Murringer for not making a sufficient bridge of plank for passengers to Cross the water course at Black gate."

1802. " We present the Surveyor for not repairing the Platt or bridge over the Water course at Black gate."

1808. " Jany. We present William Jones Surveyor of the highways for not putting a fence of post and rails near a certain Bridge at the Black Gate. Amerced in twenty shillings."

The road leading to Shrewsbury must have existed in Saxon times, for in many places it forms the boundary of parishes and townships, It was the road along which Coaches first reached Oswestry. These vehicles were first introduced into England by the Earl of Arundel, Lord of Oswestry, in 1590, and about 1601 it is said that a bill was brought into Parliament

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to prevent the effeminacy of men riding therein. The roads at that period were not in a state for any vehicular traffic, for it is recorded that a Coach which was started from London at seven o'clock in the morning, for High Wyecombe, only twenty miles distant, did not reach its destination until five in the afternoon. In the *Shrewsbury Chronicle* of 1792, the North Wales Coach is advertised to start from that town at four o'clock in the morning reaching Charing Cross, London, on the following morning (fares: inside, 25s., outside, 15s., luggage 1½d. per lb., and small parcels 1s. each). By that time Telford, who was once County Surveyor for Salop, had so metalled and formed this road, that the mail coach rolled along and passed the old gallows tree near Carreglwyd at the rate of ten miles an hour.

The Hon. Thomas Kenyon (High Steward of Oswestry), speaking fifty years later (1842), thus referred to the two leading Coaches of the district, the "Hirondelle" and "Wonder":—

"On the first of May—the exact year I do not remember—the Hirondelle travelled 130 miles, from Liverpool to Cheltenham, in eight hours and twenty minutes. This was speed such as had rarely been attained by any coach, and it was speed with safety also. I was in Shrewsbury on the day when this was done, and saw the team of greys drive into the Lion yard, having done nine miles in thirty-five minutes. I well remember there were two ladies inside who were informed that it was a trial of speed for the coach on that occasion, and the offer was made to them that if they felt at all alarmed, they would immediately be sent on by any other conveyance they pleased to name.

"Gentlemen, I must say that these ladies were right good blood, for their answer was that they were not frightened in the least—that they were not aware that they had come so rapidly—that they liked going fast—and that they would go on! And on they went. As for the Wonder, I can say this for it; I have left the Lion yard at six in the morning and was in London at seven the same evening. When I say London I mean that I was at Islington. That was pretty fast—Shrewsbury to London in thirteen hours! The Coach was driven by four Coachmen, ... four of the best coachmen that ever sat on a box. I can give you another instance of the character the Wonder had obtained. A friend of mine (Sir Henry Peyton) . . . . told me that, at St. Alban's, he has often seen people pull out their watches as the Wonder went by; not to see if the Coach was true to time, but to regulate their watches by the Coach!"

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(Photo, Mr. Maclardy).

BLACK-GATE SCHOOL (demolished), and **No. 7 (OLD SMITHFIELD INN), SALOP ROAD.** (Page 243).

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Now commences the western side of Salop Road. No. 1, *Bear's Paw*, is of a very recent date. Previously, a low whitewashed house and shop stood upon the corner, which in 1845 was occupied by Mr. Edward Hughes, whose wife ,passing under the name of " Molly Naggy," kept a shop in which the best toffee of the day could be purchased. A later occupier was Mr. Edward Higgins, father of Mr. Jabez Higgins, Builder, and when he left, the old building was demolished and the " Bear's Paw " erected. Mr. David Jones, who for some time occupied the new building, was Mayor in 1908.

Nos. 3 and 5 were erected in 1800 by Mr. Nathaniel Price, who died in 1847. He was the son of Mr. Richard Price, Surgeon, who died, senior Alderman, in 1790, and grandson of Mr. Nathaniel Price, gentleman, Mayor, 1723, that in 1719 married Elinor daughter of Mr. John Price, " Alderman of Oswestry " (Selattyn Registers), and whose name appears upon one of the bells of St. Oswalds, cast in 1717, as " Nathaniel Price, gent., Ch. Wden."

No. 3, in 1845, was occupied by Mr. Edward Edwards, and afterwards by a great fighter (in his day) named Jim Judson, and Mr. Vaughan, Bellhanger. No. 5, was the office of Mr. Walter Price, Solicitor, who built Gatacre House. It was afterwards a beer-house called the Freemason's Arms, the several occupiers as such being Messrs. George Guage, 1868, Samuel Alldridge, 1870, George Rogers, Richard Davies and Harry Phipps.

No. 7 is an ancient half-timbered house, that in 1845 was occupied by Mr. Griffith Evans, Mayor, 1839, and Manager of the flannel warehouse where now stands Messrs. Dorsett Owen & Co.'s brewery. This also became a public house named The Smithfield Inn and was occupied successively by Messrs. Richard Humphreys (1867), Henry Thomas (1870), Pryce Davies (1873), and Richard Lewis.

Baptist Church. Upon the site of this there stood a half timber residence, that in 1814 belonged to Mrs. Withers, and in which for upwards of fifty

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years, a school for girls was conducted by Miss Holbrooke. An announcement appeared in the *Oswestry Herald* :—" Miss Holbrooke respectfully informs her friends that her school re-opens July 9th, 1822." In 1881 the School was taken over by Miss Orpin, but soon after, the buildings were demolished, and the site presented by Alderman John Morris, J.P. (and a worshipper), to the English Baptists upon which to erect a new Church in place of the one standing in the English Walls. The Memorial Stones were laid in June, 1891, by his Worship the Mayor (Mr. A. Wynne Corrie) and others, and the building, which cost about £2750, formally opened in March, 1892. In 1909 the Memorial Stones of a building for the purposes of the Sunday School, were laid by the Mayor (Councillor David Jones), the opening ceremony taking place in September of that year.

Nos. 9 and 11 (Glyn Maye, &c). Here in the beginning of the eighteenth century were the stables and residence of Mr. Ralph Fox (and Bridget his wife) the " London Carrier," whose waggons, on Mondays and Thursdays, plied between Oswestry and Shrewsbury in pre-railway times, in connection with vans travelling to the latter place from London. Mr. Fox was succeeded in the business by his son John (born 1737) who in 1764 married Margaret Edwards of Oswestry. An extraordinary display of lightning occurred here in 1778, and which is recorded in the Selattyn Register of that year, thus :—

" On Saturday the 6th June, 1778, about half an hour after nine, there happened at Oswestry one most dreadful flash of lightening attended by rain. At the house of John Fox, the Salop and Oswestry carrier, who lived a little below the black gate, the lightening rushed down the kitchen chimney and took its course into a ground chamber, just opposite to the fire place in the kitchen, almost in the entrance of which stood a maiden servant of Mr. Fox's, rocking a young child of his in a cradle, whom it killed on the spot. It afterwards was attracted by a wire rod on which was filed receipts, etc. (which were not even singed) and which was exactly over the young woman's head, from thence it forced itself into a room above, making a small chink in both the ceiling and flooring just in which place stood a four post oak bedstead, which it greatly shattered and burnt some part of the hangings and cloaths on the bed. At last it darted

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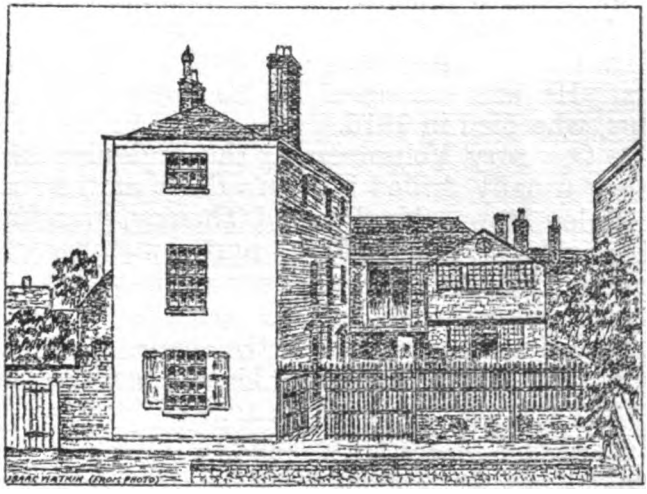
itself out at the window being much heatened, to which it may be attracted by some iron bars on the window. It was seen to roll up the street in one Vast Sheet of Fire as far as the Queen's Head, where an iron pull-ring attracted it, and it instantly disappeared as was observed by losing itself in the Earth. What was remarkably providential attending the melancholy accident, was that the Bedstead which was so much damaged, was that which two or three young children usually lay on, but were that night very happily put into another bed, owing to a very frivolous Reason, because there was no clean linen laid upon their own. The young child in the cradle was not hurt and there were seven of the family sitting each side of the kitchen fire at the time, which did not receive any injury, only Mrs. Fox's right cheek was a little scorched. The lightening and explosion were instantaneous, and not so violently shocking as that happened at Mr. Edwards' of Mount Zion." (Now Oakhurst.)

The Oswestry Register for that year contains an entry of the maid's (Ann, daughter of Thomas Morris, of Trefonen) burial in St. Oswald's Churchyard.

In Price's History of 1815 the child that was in the cradle is referred to as "Mr. William Fox, Saddler."

Mr. John Fox's successor was his son Richard (born 1787), grandfather of Mr. Oswald Fox, Savings Bank.

No. 13, Salop House, was the residence of Mr. Edward Morris of the firm of Morris & Savin, Drapers.



RESIDENCE AND WORKSHOPS OF MR. GRIFFITH MORRIS, BUILDER, Salop Road (now the site of Belgrave Place).

The next block of houses, known as Belgrave Place,

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were erected in 1867, previous to which date there stood upon the site, but a little distance from the street, the long, narrow, stuccoed dwelling-house and offices of Mr. Griffith Morris, the well-known builder. The portion next the Barley Mow Inn was covered by a stone mason's yard, and upon the other were a range of sheds, workshops and other out buildings. Mr. Morris was joined in the business by his sons William and John. He died in 1861, aged eighty-two. Mr. John Morris resided at Belgrave Place, was Mayor in 1870 and 1879, and died, an Alderman, in 1885.

The Barley Mow Inn was an extremely curious and antiquated building in former days. The front portion having been rebuilt, no idea can now be formed of the original street elevation, but a glance at the unaltered portion of the premises in the rear will serve as a guide in estimating the date of the original building. The house was occupied in 1845 by Mr. John Hughes, and sometime afterwards by Mr. William Jones, who in 1859 left for the Cross Keys Hotel. He was succeeded for one year only by Mr. Ratcliffe, when Mr. John Evans became tenant until 1865, in which year the license was transferred to Mr. Isaac Evans, who occupied for nearly forty years. He was succeeded by his nephew Mr. John Evans, who died in 1915.

The Oswestry Volunteers at the beginning of last century usually drilled in Fox's Croft at the rear of the Barley Mow. Mr. Edward Thomas, grandfather of Councillor J. E. Thomas, and a member of the Company, used to relate the manner in which one of the men was expelled for bad conduct. " His coat was turned inside out, and to the strains of the band playing the ' Rogue's March ' he was marched down the field and turned into the road."

Nos. 41–7 (Cottages) are some of the oldest in this street. Their floors are considerably below the level of the sidepath, and the owner of the block in 1845 was Mr. William Farr, Coachbuilder.

Trinity Church. In Mr. Askew Roberts' *Contri-*

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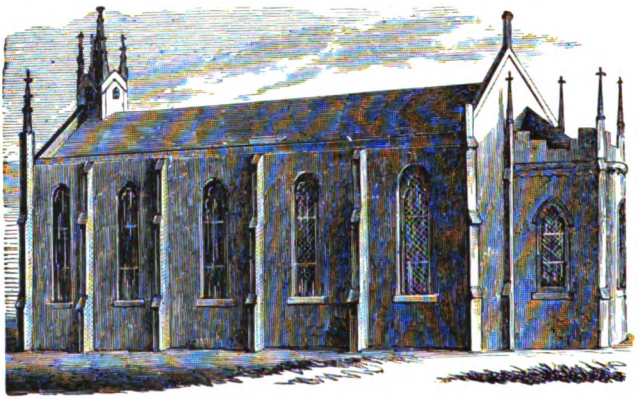

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TRINITY CHURCH, 1855.

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butions there is reference to "An Appeal to the Members of the Church of England in the Town and Neighbourhood of Oswestry, on the subject of the Erection of a Chapel of Ease," made in 1834, wherein it was stated :—

"The Parish Church of Oswestry contains 252 pews, capable of holding 950 persons, and it will accommodate beside in the aisles—but in a very inconvenient and inadequate manner—about 100 poor persons in free sittings, it should be observed that these consist only of narrow benches, in the aisles, nailed against the pews wherever means exist of doing so,—that the poor people are obliged to sit with their feet upon the stone floor, and exposed to a thorough draught of air by the frequent opening of the doors, and that, consequently, when in delicate health, they are prevented, by the above causes, from coming to Church. It should also be observed, that in order to accommodate even this number of poor persons, considerably less space is allowed to each than is considered necessary by the Church Building Society in London; and lastly, that the aisles are so narrow—generally about five feet only—that when the benches are occupied the rest of the congregation have great difficulty in getting to their pews. When these circumstances are taken into consideration, and it is remembered that the Church accommodation in free sittings, even in the above imperfect manner, is only one in sixty of the population which requires to be provided for, it will become evident at once that the principal want of church-room which is experienced is that of free sittings for the poor. The number of houses in the town of Oswestry rated at £4 and upwards is 344, which are at persent occupied as follows :—Church Families, 244, Church and Chapel 9, Dissenters, of different denominations, 84, vacant houses, 7, In the 9 Church and Chapel families, four of them are cases where some individuals are Church persons and some Dissenters. The other five families consider themselves as belonging to the Church, but go to the different Chapels, because they can either obtain no accommodation, or not sufficient for their families, in the present church. Of the 244 Church families, 167 either own pews in the Church or are enabled to rent them, and 77 Church families are wholly without any accommodation whatever, to which number, if we add the five Church families mentioned in the last class, there will be a total of 82 Church families in the town of that class, who would rent pews, who are (with the exception of one family only) without any accommodation in the present church, and to these also may be added several families in the country who are similarly circumstanced."

Then the Appellants, forgetting that "All equal are within the Church's gate," proceed to "classify"

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the worshippers thus :—

" There is, however, a want, to a very considerable extent, of accommodation for those persons of a superior class, whose means enable them to rent sittings in pews. There is some difficulty in drawing the line accurately which separates those persons who would occupy pews from those who do not object to sit in the aisles. It is found, however, upon enquiry, that almost the whole of those who are rated at £4 a year to the poors' rate (the rate being about half the real value) are of that class which occupy pews. In endeavouring to ascertain, therefore, to what extent additional church accommodation is wanted in pews, this is the line which has been taken, and those persons only have been applied to who are rated at £4 and upwards to the poors' rates."

The appeal concluded with a list of promised donations towards the erection of a Chapel-of-Ease, and liberal subscriptions following, the corner-stone of this building was laid on the 16th July, 1835, by the Vicar of Oswestry (Rev. T. Salwey), when, instead of depositing in the cavity of such stone various coins of the realm, showing the date when the building was erected, it was considered more befitting to put in a copy of the Holy Scriptures and the Book of Common Prayer (the gift of the Rev. Charles Lloyd, of Whittington) and these were enclosed in a yew (one of the most imperishable of woods) box. The building, of free-stone in the decorated style, and made to accommodate 700 worshippers, sittings for 400 being free, was opened on May 11th, 1837, and Consecrated by Dr. Carey, Bishop of St. Asaph, on the 18th July following. The Communion plate was presented by the Earl of Powis and the first Incumbent, and the Service Books by Viscount Dungannon and the Mayor of Oswestry, Mr. Francis Campbell. The first incumbent was the Rev. Richard Maurice Bonnor, father of the late Colonel Bonnor of Brynygwalia, and grandfather of the present Vicar of Oswestry, the Rev. M. B. Lutener, M.A., He resided at Mount Zion (now Oakhurst), which place was greatly improved by him. From Trinity Church he was promoted to Ruabon in 1842, becoming Dean and Chancellor of the Diocese in 1859.

The services at that time, were limited to two on

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Sundays—in the morning and afternoon, the church being closed in the evening.

The building was originally intended to be a Chapel of Ease to the Parish Church, but in 1842, a District comprising a portion of the town and five rural townships were assigned to it, and in the same year it was gazetted as a separate cure.

About the year 1856, the roof having got into a dangerous condition it was renewed at a cost of £600, borne by Mr. T. L. Longueville and the Rev. John Parker.

In 1866 an order was issued authorising the solemnization of marriages, etc.

Ten years later about £356 was spent in raising the east end three steps, removing the pulpit from the east wall to the north corner, re-arranging the seats and other improvements, an octave of services to commemorate the re-opening being held in September, 1876.

In order to meet the wants of the worshippers, further alterations and additions were carried out in 1893. The contract, amounting to £3200, was let to Mr. W. H. Thomas of Oswestry, and the additions comprised a south transept (given by Miss Longueville Penylan, in memory of her father, the late Alderman T. L. Longueville, one of the founders of the Church), a north transept for children, a west extension, new organ Chamber, and a north-east tower with spire, in which was fixed a peal of tubular bells. The gallery was also removed. A handsome array of curtains were given by Mrs. Wynne Corrie, a reredos of alabaster inlaid with gold mosaic, by Mr. Wynne Corrie, and a font of unique style by Mr. R. B. Smale, "in memory of his mother ,Mary Eliza Smale." The re-opening and consecration of the works took place on Monday, 7th May, 1894.

The stained glass windows therein are to the memory of Canon Howell Evans, Vicar of Oswestry, 1872–1888, Alderman John Thomas, Ardmillan, died Aug. 23, 1892, Emily Christian Corfield, died March 2, 1885, Conolly McAusland Redfern, died Nov. 26,

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1907, and Her late Majesty Queen Victoria. There is also a marble tablet, erected by the parishioners in memory of Rev. Frederick Cashell, M.A., 35 years vicar of this parish, died Jan. 1, 1887, aged 67, and a brass tablet to the Rev. Henry Eaton Thomas, Vicar, who died 5 Oct., 1915.

The building, for a number of years, was called and known as Trinity Chapel, afterwards Trinity Church, but in recent times it is designated " Holy Trinity Church."

When carrying out the painting of exterior woodwork in 1870, the workmen, one Saturday afternoon, innocently left their ladders in position against the belfry, in readiness for resuming work on Monday morning. These being observed by two boys they instantly seized the opportunity of playing a trick with the sexton, mounted the ladder, got into the belfry and tied the tongue of the bell. When Sunday morning's tolling hour arrived the poor sexton pulled vainly for a response, repeating his labour in the evening with the same result, and it was not until an examination on the following morning that the mischief was discovered.

Black Lion Inn, was erected by Mr. Thomas Jones, formerly of the Bricklayer's Arms, for his own occupation, which must have been done after the closing of the house, bearing the same sign, at 27 Bailey Street. After Mr. Jones, the occupiers were, Messrs. Leonard Jones (1852), Edward Weston (1853), Thomas Pugh (1854), John Richards (1860), Edward Davies (1873), Edward Ruscoe (1874), and Thomas Manford.

Trinity Villas were built in 1862. Previous to then the ground was a builder's yard belonging to Mr. Isaac Porter, architect and timber-merchant, while the junction of Park Street and Salop Road was a mud pond.

Trinity Vicarage, was erected in 1866 at a cost of £1400, from plans prepared by Mr. W. H. Hill, architect, then of The Lymes, Church Street. The first to occupy was the Rev. (afterwards Canon)

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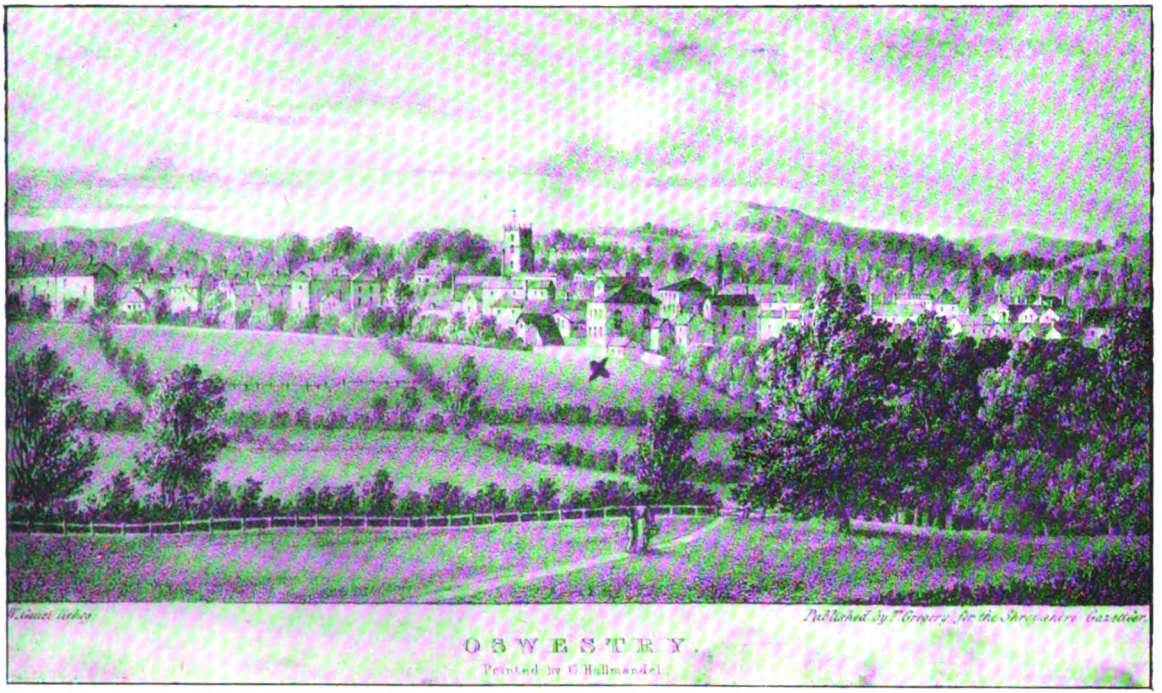
Sw p 325



View from the Shelf Bank, 1820.

(x English Wesleyan Chapel in Coney Green Field. Page 264).

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Frederick Cashel, M.A., a native of Dublin. He came to Oswestry from Morton, Durham, in 1851, to follow the Rev. John Jones (appointed Vicar of Llanarmon) when this incumbency was only worth £150 a year. He belonged to the low Evangelical party, and as such never tolerated anything savouring of ritualism, not even crosses upon the covers of Prayer Books. He was a fine extempore preacher, but rather long, the morning services frequently lasting two and a half hours. One Sunday morning, when the sermon had run to a considerable length (they usually exceeded sixty minutes in those days), Mr. Cashel, in starting another division of his subject, pronounced the word "now" with perhaps more than necessary emphasis, up rose the congregation, *en masse*, in an instant, expecting the longed-for ascription: "Now to God the Father," etc. A smile flitted across the face of the astonished preacher for a moment, and then he settled down to another ten minutes work. Mr. Cashel once related the amusing story of his first (and last) smoking experience. He had been rather below par for some time, and his doctor said he must take to smoking, "But Doctor," said he, "I've never smoked in my life." "You must learn," said the doctor, "begin by degrees, buy a mild cigar, and you'll soon get used to it." Further remonstrance being in vain, he very reluctantly yielded, for the doctor was persistent. So, one night, shortly afterwards, when Mrs. Cashel had retired, he sat down in his easy chair by the fireside, took out a cigar, lighted it, and, with much fear and trembling, not unmixed with curiosity, began to smoke. As he puffed away, he thought it seemed curious, but as there was nothing disagreeable about the operation, he surrendered himself to the soothing influence of the narcotic, and probably began to consider if all that was said of the terrible experience of novitiates could be true, or whether he was an exception? As the curling smoke ascended and filled the room with its nicotian fumes, the subjugated parson felt himself delightfully soothed and

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calmed, and even becoming reconciled to this newly-formed elysium. At length, having finished the cigar, he took up his candlestick and started for bed. When he had ascended a few steps of the stairs, his head began to swim, a horrible dizziness seized him, and he stumbled. Recovering his footing, he held on by the handrail for a while and then made another attempt, but this time he fell at full length, letting go the candlestick, which, clattering down the steps, made such a noise as to bring Mrs. Cashel to the stair-head in great alarm. "Why, Fred," said she, "whatever is the matter? Are you hurt, or ill, or what?" "Oh, don't talk to me my dear," he pleaded, "I'll be all right in a minute or two, and explain. Please don't ask me any questions." With great difficulty and much perseverance, he crawled on hands and knees up the stairs, and at length gained his bedroom, where he lay on the floor like a helpless log. He could not undress, but had to be lifted to bed just as he was. Needless to say he passed one of the most miserable nights of his life, and at break of day solemnly vowed that whatever the doctor might say, this, his first smoke, should be the last. And so we believe it was. (*Owen's Reminiscences*). He died January 1st, 1886, aged sixty seven years.

Until the construction of the Cambrian Railways, Salop Road went in a straight line from the Hollies entrance gate, and east of the present railway bridge, to the junction of Maesbury Road, where there was a gate across the West Felton Road and a Collector's house near, Victoria Road coming into it through the open space between Holly Place and Sandford House.

The Gas Works were erected in 1842, at the sole expense of Mr. Robert Roberts, proprietor of the Works then near the White Lion Hotel, Willow Street, the present Owners, The Oswestry Gas Light and Coke Company, Limited, being formed in 1860. Since their erection here, it is believed the town has only been in darkness for two nights, the stoppage then being caused by some alteration necessitated by the diversion of the turnpike road, along which the

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main ran, at the time the railway was being constructed.

A remarkable incident occurred during the erection of the works. When a bricklayer was touching up the tall chimney after the removal of the scaffolding, he happened to look around, and to his dismay found that his favourite dog had followed him up an almost perpendicular ladder. The man was in a too dangerous position to attempt to seize the animal and it was impossible for it to descend, but he instantly recollected a trick which he had taught it. He thereupon lowered his body, and the dog, with one fore leg at a time, clasped his neck, and both descended in safety.

The Cemetery, nearly eight acres in extent, was opened on the 26th December, 1862, the first body interred therein being that of Mrs. Sarah Lot Fox, relict of Mr. Richard Fox, the last of the "London Carriers."

EASTERN SIDE OF SALOP ROAD.

Looking eastward, directly after crossing the Railway bridge, a boulder, measuring about three yards in height and over five yards in circumference, will be noticed standing at the far end of the field adjoining the road, and which is known as Garreglwyd (*grey stone*), giving the name to the surrounding land and the villa residence near. This erratic, estimated to weigh between nine and ten tons, shows evidence of glacial wear and striations, and, according to local geologists, belongs to the Upper Coal Measures, and is one of the Carboniferous or Cefnfedw sandstones carried by the moving ice, from the Vale of Llangollen, and dropped here. In Gwenrhian Gwynedd's *History of Selattyn*, it is stated—"There is an old tradition that, once upon a time, three giants lived at Selattyn, and disputed as to which was the strongest, and to decide the matter they picked up three stones on Cyrnybwch to see which

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could throw the farthest. One alighted at the Swan hollow (removed when the land adjoining the Rope Walk, Oswestry, was built over), the second at a moderate distance from the town on the left of the Shrewsbury Road, and the third about a quarter of a mile further on."

Standing as it does, upon end, indicates that it must have been so fixed for a purpose, probably as a *Moot-stone* (common in the Southern Counties), around which, in primitive times, people assembled to discuss their plans or troubles, the ruler or chief taking his seat upon the top of the stone.

Near by is the course of Watt's (or perhaps *Watch*) Dyke, once the line of demarcation between Cambria and Mercia. The Dyke, built of earth mixed with rubble and believed to have been seven yards wide at the top and nine yards at its base, began near Maesbury Marsh or perhaps the Severn, passing over the Shelf Bank, through the site of the engine sheds at the Cambrian Railway Station, Old Oswestry, Gobowen, towards Wynnstay (formerly Wat's-Stay), and terminating at the river Dee below Basingwerk Abbey near Holywell in Flintshire. It is supposed to have been constructed before Offa's Dyke, with which it runs almost parallel, but further east. The name has been supposed to be taken from "Gwaeth," *i.e.* the Worse, that is, the less good, to distinguish the two Dykes from each other, Gwaeth Dyke, Gwatt's Dyke, or Watt's Dyke. (*Salop Antigua.*) Mr. Alfred Palmer, in a paper read before the Cymrodorion Society in 1891, states that in a deed of 1431 he found it spelt "Clauwdd Wade," in 1433 "Claud Wode," and in Norden's Survey of 1620 "Clauwdd Wad," and he suggests that "Wada" might be the name of the Mercian General who constructed the Dyke in the time of King Offa. Its course is about 37 miles, its vallum being 11 ft. 6 in. high and the fosse 7 ft. wide. (*Salop Antiqua.*)

Offa's Dyke (Clawdd Offa), extending from the Bristol Channel, between the mouths of the Severn and Wye, to Treyddyn in Flintshire, a distance of

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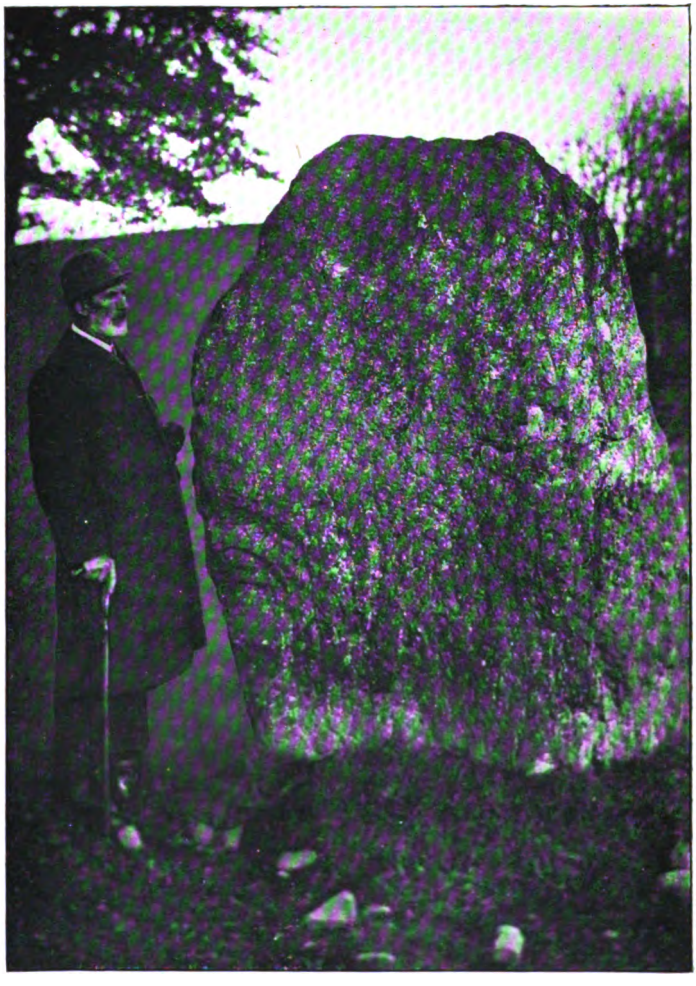

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about 140 miles, is on the western side of the town, passing along Cyrnybwch in the direction of Trefarclawdd where (on Pentreshannel Farm) it may be found in a fair state of preservation and measuring about 30 feet at its base, and 10 feet high. The first record of it is by Asser, a monk of St. Davids, about 900, who wrote :—" There was in Mercia in recent times a certain valiant king who was feared by all the kings and neighbouring states around. His name was Offa, and it was he who had the great rampart made from sea to sea between Mercia and Wales." In *Brut Aberpergwm* it is related that in " 765 of the age of Christ, the lands of Mercia were laid waste by the Welsh, and they prevailed against the Saxons and plundered it greatly, wherefore Offa, King of Mercia, built the great Dyke, called Offa's Dyke, as a boundary between the land of the Welsh and Mercia, and it still continues." The intervening space between the Dykes, ranging from five hundred yards to four miles, but at this point about two miles wide, is said to be the Common mart (or place of safe conduct) where the English and Welsh met to carry on a commercial intercourse with each other, but if either party transgressed these bounds, they were exposed to the severities of war.

" Within two myles there is a famous thing
Cal'de Offaes Dyke, that reacheth farre in length ;
All kind of ware the Danes might thether bring,
It was free ground, and called the Britaine's strength.
Wat's Dyke likewise about the same was set,
Between which two both Danes and Britaines met,
And trafficke still, but passing bounds by sleight,
The other did take the other prisoner streight."

—(*Worthies of Wales.*)

In Offa's time if any Welshmen came over the boundary between them and the English (then Saxons) they were taken up and hanged, and if any Englishman was catched on the Welsh side, he suffered the same fate, such was their antipathy to each other, for the Welshmen counted all lawful prizes they took from the English ; for this reason houses along the border were frequently moated

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round, and pallisades, or stakes, set around the edge of the moat, to make a stronger fence, into which places, the inhabitants every night drove their cattle for better security. If a Welshman could get a stolen horse or cow over the bar, he cried out " my own," and further the horsemen durst not follow, or they would have hanged them. (*Phillips.*) If in necessitous circumstances a person had to travel on the other side, an appointed and responsible guide met him at the boundary to conduct him to and fro, and if it was that the traveller's life was taken, his slayer had to pay half his legal value (as set down in the laws of that period) to his next of kin or dependent. In the eleventh century, Harold, son of Godwin, made a law that any Briton soever who thenceforth should be found with a weapon on the east side of Offa's Dyke should have his right hand struck off by the officers of the land, and tradition has it that a chieftain, one Enog (Enoc or Enoch) who lost his hand for his ravages, gave the name Cwm-llaw-enog—the Cwm of Enoch's hand—to the valley by which Cader Fronwen, on the Berwyn, is approached from Llanarmon D.C.

Carreglwyd (from the grey pillar near) was built by Mr. Charles Sabine on a piece of land called in the Tithe Terrier of 1795, *Maes-y-garreg-lwyd*, containing 3 a. 0 r. 16 p., probably on the site of an earlier building, for the parish register of 1832 contains an entry of the burial of a person " from Cottage upon Mr. Sabine's land." Mr. Sabine came to Oswestry in 1823, when he was taken into partnership by Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, and in 1825 married Margaret, daughter of Mr. Thomas Hughes, Wine Merchant, Church Street. The partnership with Mr. Minshall was dissolved in 1830, when he was joined for a few years by Mr. Menlove. After that he practised alone (until his son qualified) at Church Street, the Quadrant, and, lastly, at the Vines (now Thornton Leigh), No. 2, Salop Road, and died at Carreglwyd in 1859, aged sixty-three years. Mr. Sabine, who was one of the most estimable residents

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of the town, was a prolific writer, chiefly of short books of a religious or philanthropic character, but it was his fine spirit, his sympathetic nature, and his fearless advocacy of what he believed to be right that gave him his unique position in the town. He was succeeded by his son, Mr. Charles Edwyn Sabine, who in 1860 married Edith Elizabeth, daughter of Alderman Thomas Hill. He lived there for several years, and then removed to the Vines, No. 2, Salop Road, which adjoined his office, where he died in 1874, being succeeded at Carreglwyd by Mrs. Shaw and Captain Francis Evans.

According to the map of 1795 there was not at that time any house excepting Park Issa (which has since been rebuilt) upon the eastern side of Salop Road, until Blackgate was reached.

In a field adjoining the entrance to The Hollies, may be noticed something much like an ancient tumulus, but which in reality is only an ordinary and recent deposit of soil. When the Oswestry and Newtown Railway was being constructed, about 1860, its course was planned to run through the centre of a field fronting the Hollies, but the owner declined to assent unless a bridge was provided for approaching the off portion. However after sufficient soil had been deposited for an embankment he waived his claim, retained the mound as a memento, then planted it and had a rustic summer-house erected upon its summit.

Park Issa. The old residence was held by the Kyffin family, Mr. Thomas Kyffin being occupier in 1845. It has since been rebuilt and was for many years occupied by Mr. George Owen, Civil Engineer. Mr. Owen, born at Tunbridge Wells in 1827, came to Oswestry in 1853 from Montgomery, commencing practice as an engineer and surveyor in rooms at No. 31, Church Street. In conjunction with Mr. Benjamin Percy he promoted the first section of the Cambrian Railways—Oswestry and Newtown, being afterwards appointed resident engineer of the Company. He married, in 1855, Lucretia Elizabeth,

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daughter of Mr. Mickleburgh of Montgomery. was elected to a seat on the Town Council in 1860, Mayor in 1864 and 1865, made a Justice of the Peace for the Borough and County, and died in 1901.

It is stated in *Camb. Britt.* that in 1699 there was a well called Maen Tysilio, at Oswestry " where the inhabitants resorted to celebrate their annual Wake." Doubtless it was the well known in later years as " Ffynnon Goulden," for before the making of the railway there was a field (No. 40 on map) at the back of Park Issa, reaching nearly to Plasffynnon and up to Middleton Road, upon which there was a remarkably strong spring of water, and, close to, an erection called the Bath House. The land, up to 1780, belonged to Mr. Edward Maurice of Petton, who in that year, when occupied by Mr. Francis Dorsett, sold it to Mr. Thomas Vernon, Mayor, 1782. In 1784 Mr. Vernon married Mary, daughter of Mrs. Salusbury of the Bowling Green (Wynnstay Hotel) and died in the following year. The property came under the hammer in 1806 and was thus described: " Lot 20, a field called Ffynnon Golding, with house, bath and garden, comprising 4 a. 2 r. 16 p., in the occupation of Mr. Bickley at the annual rent of £29." The purchaser being Mr. Rice Roberts. The parish register for 1811 contains an entry of the burial of " John Jones Ffynnon Golden."

The Wakes before referred to and usually held upon this ground were a great event, and it appears, took priority over all things, for in the Diary of the Sunday engagements of John Howell, an Oswestry Clergyman, it is recorded, " 17 Aug., 1766, Oswestry Wakes. No Church."

A writer on " Former Days, many years later, says: " When Minshull the printer kept the Kings Arms Inn, Salop Road, and the Wakes were being held, this was the most lively part of the town. All stray dogs were ' kettled ' at the Blacksmith's shop in Llys Lane, and turned ' up town.' There were donkey races, when Minshull would be clerk of the course, and in another part a stage would be erected,

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with a cross beam for rolls and treacle, where boys, with their arms tied behind them, used to eat the rolls dripping with treacle, and being suspended as they were by string, the performance was very amusing."

Formerly a lane ran from Ffynnon Terrace to Middleton Road, entering the latter just beyond Plasffynnon gardens. The land adjoining the street, from Park Issa around to Middleton Road, was formerly the lord's waste, the only building thereon being a squatter's hut, occupied by Samuel Owen, otherwise Dacre, and which in 1768 was purchased by Mr. Edward Maurice, of Petton, the owner of Ffynnon Golding adjoining. The ground afterwards passed to Mr. Thomas Vernon, and (in 1806) Mr. Rice Roberts. It was the latter, probably, that erected the Malthouses and residences now thereon, for in 1821 there were occupiers, besides himself, Messrs. Philip Ireland, Samuel Sides, William Jones and William Jasper. Mr. Roberts died in 1826.

Nos. 76–68, *Ffynnon Terrace*, were, until quite recently, called The Club Houses, from their having been for several generations, the property of the Sun Friendly Society. A notable person living here was Mr. William Bowyer Pryce, who for upwards of half-a-century was engaged at the Caxton Printing Works. He was educated at the Grammar School, where he acquired considerable reputation for the knowledge of Greek, and so great was his store of general knowledge that he was usually referred to as "the Walking Encyclopædia." He died in June, 1889, aged eighty-one.

No. 60, erected by Mr. E. Price in 1843, was the residence of the well-known townsman, "Powell the Painter." Besides the regular trade of a house-painter, Mr. Powell was deemed a good hand at the painting of animals in oils, and also a great sign writer, especially when a picture of some kind was needed to illustrate it.

No. 56, *Clwyd House*, in 1845, belonged to and was occupied by Mr. William Robley, a native of

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Cumberland, who worked the malt-kilns near. He was succeeded by his brother, Mr. Isaac Robley, who died in 1863. A little later, Dr. Beresford also lived here.

The next range of malt-kilns were for many years worked by Mr. Robert Roberts, who resided at the house adjoining, where he died in 1876.

Nos. 48 *and* 50 were erected in 1841. It was in one of these that Mr. J. Pryce Jones (afterwards of Willow Street Academy) opened a boarding and day school for boys in 1852.

LLYS LANE.

Plasffynnon, was formerly a small residence, and in the early part of last century occupied by Mr. John Jones, Ironmonger, who died in 1827, and was succeeded by his son John, who died in 1853. A few years later the premises were acquired by Mr. Thomas Savin, by whom they were rebuilt. Mr. Savin, born in 1826, was the son of John and Mary Savin of Llwynymaen. In 1847 he was taken into partnership by Mr. Edward Morris, Draper, 27, Cross Street.

Soon afterwards he became acquainted with Mr. David Davies (grandfather of Major David Davies, M.P.) of Llandinam, (an almost entirely self-taught man, yet, by his rare shrewdness and unremitting exertion acquired an extraordinary ability in the grasping of details and exercising promptness of decision. Thus, after looking at the plans and specifications of the Oswestry Smithfield, he was asked how long it would take him to make up his mind, when he at once replied, "Five minutes," other contractors stipulating for several days. He secured the contract), and became his partner in several important railway undertakings. The first of these was the railway from Llanidloes to Newtown, twelve miles in length, and with no railway within thirty miles of either terminus, the nearest being at Oswestry. For this reason the plant and materials

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were brought chiefly by canal to Newtown, and the locomotives and carriages for working the line were conveyed by road on specially constructed waggons from Oswestry. Before this line was completed Messrs. Davies & Savin had undertaken the contract for the Vale of Clwyd line from Denbigh to Rhyl, which they completed in 1858. The Llanidloes line was completed and opened for traffic on 31st August, 1859. They then entered into a contract for the completion of the Oswestry and Newtown line (portions of which had been made by other contractors), which they finished in the summer of 1862. They also contracted for the making of the line from Newtown to Machynlleth, which was finished the same year, and (in conjunction with Mr. Ward, Mr. Savin's brother-in-law) another line from Brecon to Merthyr. They also promoted a line from Machynlleth to Aberystwyth, but Mr. Savin, not content with this, insisted on embarking in extensions along the Welsh Coast, *via* Aberdovey and Barmouth to Pwllheli, including also the erection of large and costly hotels at Aberystwyth (£80,000 had been expended upon one building here, the promoters of the Welsh University, a few years later, securing the abandoned works for £10,000), Borth, Aberdovey and other places. Mr. Davies consequently dissolved his partnership with Mr. Savin, events ending in the latter's disastrous failure in February, 1866. (*Mont. Worthies.*)

Mr. Savin married, in 1852, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Edward Hughes (Plasnewydd), of Park Farm, entered the Town Council, was Mayor in 1863, afterwards an Alderman and a Justice of the Peace. He died in Salop Road in 1889. Mr. Savin was succeeded here by Mr. Thomas Pryce Parry, (father of the late Town Clerk, Mr. Samuel Pryce Parry), woolstapler and fellmonger, born in 1828, son of the Rev. Foulk Parry, C.M., and resided in the town all his life. He married, in 1855, Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Hugh Wildblood, was elected upon the Council in 1871, Mayor, 1874 and 1875, made a Justice of the Peace, and died in 1893.

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A little beyond, and upon the north side, is Ardmillan, erected by Alderman John Thomas, for his own occupation, in 1879. Mr. Thomas, who was born at Henfache, Llanrhaiadr, brought up at Priddbwll, Llansilin, and educated at the Oswestry Grammar School, married Anne Elizabeth, daughter of Mr. Thomas Jones, J.P., Welshpool, and resided for many years at Castle Buildings, Willow Street. He carried on the business of a Corn Merchant and Maltster, for upwards of forty years, was four times Mayor, a member of the County Council, director of several Companies, Justice of the Peace, and died in 1892. An ardent Welshman, Mr. Thomas worked most assiduously for the welfare of the town.

Returning, we come to the boundary of what was the Coney Green field (No. 38 on Plan), that in 1795 covered an area of 9 .a 0 r. 36 p., belonging to Mrs. Williams, and at that date without any building upon it. The ground was frequently rented for travelling shows, and upon the visit of Atkin's Menagerie in 1814, a lion caught hold of a child and tore its face, when one of the French prisoners of war (nearly 300 in number, who were on parole in Oswestry from 1811 to 1814 under the charge of Mr. Henry Pincen Tozer—afterwards Aubrey of Broomhall), standing near, forced his cane down the animal's throat, and released the child. (*Table of Events.*)

Middleton Road Smithy. These premises, which have been rebuilt, were in 1849 occupied by Mr. Maurice Jones who in that year succeeded his father. He remained until 1863, when he left to take up the Chandlery business at No. 13, Church Street, being followed here by Mr. Owen Jones, who died in 1895.

CONTINUATION OF THE EASTERN SIDE OF SALOP ROAD.

No. 46 (Mr. Corbett) was formerly the King's Arms Public House, kept by the eccentric Richard Minshull, a poet, and who combined the several trades of printer, publican, and dealer in old clothes. Later

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the house became the Bricklayer's Arms, and was kept by Mr. Thomas Jones, whose son, George, that died young, was a very clever harpist.

Nos. 32 *and* 34 were the workshops of Mr. William Farr, Coachbuilder, and which, in 1828, was the only establishment of the kind in the town. Mr. Farr resided on the other side of the street, and was succeeded by his son Mr. Thomas Farr, who in 1866, disposed of the business to Mr. Thomas Jones.

No. 22, *Ivy House,* was the residence of Mr. William Morris, of the firm of Messrs. Griffith Morris and Sons, Builders, who died in 1869. The house was erected in 1827, and those above it in 1828.

No. 14, *Builder's Yard.* Up to 1860 this was a narrow slang of open ground, but upon being connected with the railway, then under construction, it was formed into a stores yard and a range of workshops erected thereon by Messrs. Wm. & John Morris, Builders. Later the firm became that of Morris & Chaplin, and Morris, Chaplin & Corney, but in 1882 the firm relinquished business and the premises were taken over by Messrs. W. & G. Thomas, until the death of the junior partner, Mr. George Edward Thomas, in 1887, when Mr. W. H. Thomas became sole proprietor.

No. 12. Here, in 1848, were the offices of Messrs. Longueville & Williams, Solicitors, who afterwards, removed to No. 3, Upper Brook Street, and were succeeded by Mr. George Cooper, Cashier at the Old Bank and Borough Treasurer. Then followed Dr. Joseph Large, who removed here from No. 1, Union Place, and remained until his death in 1900.

No. 10 was the residence of Mr. Charles Minshall, Solicitor, before he removed to Beechfield.

No. 8, the residence and storesyard of Mr. John Thomas, Builder, and Timber Merchant. Mr. Thomas was a large employer of sawyers, but to meet the increased demand for building material an advertisement of 1864 states " he has erected steam power." Mr. Thomas died in 1873 and was succeeded by his

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sons, who traded as W. & G. Thomas, and in 1882 took over the premises No. 14.

No. 6 (*Nursing Home*) was erected early in the last century by Dr. Thomas Morris for his own occupation. Late in life he was assisted by his son, Dr. Pryce Morris. The former died in 1838 and the latter in 1844 aged forty-two, when the practice was taken over by Dr. William Fuller, a native of Pandon, Ireland. He married Miss Mary Menlove of Pentreheylin, was a Justice of the Peace, and died in 1905.

No. 4 (*Mr. Hendrick*) is a recent addition to what was formerly the office of Mr. Charles Sabine and his son, Mr. Charles Edwyn Sabine, Solicitors.

No. 2 (*Thornton Leigh*). The site of this and the preceding, was formerly a piece of waste ground fronting the Wesleyan Chapel, but when an approach to the latter was made from the Coney Green, this ground was acquired by Mr. Charles Sabine, senior, and the house and office erected thereon. The residence was called The Vines, and was occupied, successively, by Dr. Berresford, Mrs. Griffith Whitfield and Mr. C. E. Sabine. After the death of the latter, the premises were purchased by Mr. William Williams, who with his son, Mr. Charles E. Williams (now of Salop House and Mayor 1895, 1912 and 1913) carried on the business of Accountants and Estate Agents. Mr. Williams was for many years Borough Auditor and a Member of the School Board. He died in 1880 after when his son was joined in the business by Mr. Alexander C. Nicholson, the firm being called Williams and Nicholson.

Cinema Palace, in the Coney Green, and near the last mentioned premises, was formerly the English Wesleyan Chapel, erected in 1813. Worshipping continued therein until 1871 when the new edifice in Beatrice Street was opened, this building afterwards becoming successively a Templar Hall, Salvation Army Barracks, Meeting House of the United Free Methodists and an Auction Mart. The following is noted in *Table of Events*:—" 1830. The first body buried in the Wesleyan Chapel ground being that of

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a child of Mr. Walter Davies of London House."

Returning to Salop Road, and keeping upon the right, we again enter

LEG STREET.

Nos. 41 and 39 (Butler & Jones). The whole of these premises have been rebuilt. In the beginning of the eighteenth century the owner and occupier was Mr. John Davies, Tanner, the tan-pits being upon the lord's waste near, and an acknowledgement paid therefor. He was succeeded by Mr. John Wynne, Tanner, who, with his four sons, John, Thomas, Richard, and Edward, were made free burgesses in 1781. The next occupier was Mr. John Wynne, Junr., Dairyman and Confectioner, who died in 1809. His widow, Mrs. Mary Wynne, continued the business until her death in 1817, when she was succeeded by the widow of a third John Wynne (grandfather of Mr. John Wynne, deputy Parish Clerk of St. Oswald's Church), who occupied until 1842. Mrs. Wynne was succeeded by her son Mr. Edward Wynne, formerly in the Civil Service, who opened a Commercial School for boys. His son, Edward, was for some years headmaster of the National Schools in this town, subsequently taking Holy Orders. The confectionery business was taken over by Miss Helen Davies and sister, who afterwards removed to Bailey Street. The Welsh Wesleyan Methodists held services in the Schoolroom, a large desk in a corner, being used as a pulpit, from 1854 to 1857, when they removed to their new building, now a Mission Room, in Penylan Lane. The property changed hands in 1858, since when the respective occupiers have been Messrs. Joseph Johnson, Butcher (1859), (Mrs.) Blackwell, Straw Bonnetmaker, (1864) Enoch Probert, Tailor (1869), William Peters, Photographer, Edward Higgins, William Higgins, and J. R. Roberts, Grocers.

Nos. 37 *and* 35 were formerly one, and in the occupation of Mr. Henry Jones, Blacksmith (the smithy was in the rear), until his removal to Beatrice

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Street. In 1861, Mr. David Christopher Davies, Brazier and Ironmonger, removed here from No. 32. Mr. Davies was a remarkable example of a self-made man. In early life he purposed entering the ministry, but the reading of an article upon "Geology" that appeared in *Chambers' Journal*, turned his career, and in a few years he became an eminent geologist. He relinquished his business here in 1874 and became employed in Mining Investigation, which afforded him opportunities of visiting many foreign places. He was a voluminous writer, two of his compositions being still regarded as standard works—"Metalliferous Minerals and Mining," and "Earthy and other Minerals and Mining." Mr. Davies was also a local preacher among the Congregationalists, and published a volume of Sermons entitled "The Christ of all the Ages." He died at sea in 1885, aged fifty-eight. His son, Mr. George Christopher Davies, who served his articles with Mr. C. E. Sabine, is Town Clerk of Norwich, Clerk to the County Council and Clerk of the Peace for Norfolk. These premises were afterwards occupied by Messrs. Tunna & Son, Tailors (Thos. Tunna died in 1890), Scriven Brothers Watchmakers, Maurice Jones, Shoemaker, and H. Giles, Watchmaker.

No. 33 (late Mr. Isaac Jones) was a beer-house called the "Robin Hood," kept for upwards of twenty-five years by Mr. Charles Allmand Haswell, who also carried on the tobacco pipe factory in Pool Road, and was the first in the town to apply steam power for the manufacture of aeriated waters. He died in 1876 when the license became void.

No. 29 was a shop, with the ground floor much below the sidepath, in the occupation of Mr. Thomas Cadwallader, Basket Maker, who died in 1866. He was succeeded by his widow, who afterwards became Mrs. Edwards and died in 1890 since when the ground floor front has been altered.

No. 27 (*Mr. Richard Jones*), about sixty years ago was occupied by Mr. John Morris, Cooper, who was succeeded by Messrs. George Hayes, painter, Edwin

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Wilde, butcher, and Thomas Furmston, butcher, after whom the premises were rebuilt.

No. 25 (*Mr. Nunnerley*) was formerly the Offices of Messrs. Bickerton & Hiles, Auctioneers. In 1845 there was a smithy in the yard carried on by Mrs. Martha Jones, her successors being Messrs. Job Ellis & Sons, until their removal to Victoria Works.

No. 23 (*Mr. Taylor*) was in 1845 occupied by Mr. George Jackson, Butcher, and ten years later by Mr. D. Christopher Davies, Brazier, until his removal in 1861 to No. 37. The next tenant was Mr. John Davies, Grocer, followed, in 1882, by Mr. John Bickerton, Brazier, Willow Street.

No. 21 was a house and shop connected with the Tannery at the rear, held for upwards of fifty years by Mr. Robert Evans, who died in 1877. Mr. Evans had been assisted in the business by three sons who succeeded him, and after their death, it was taken over by his daughter, Mrs. Mary Jane Campbell (who died in 1897) and her sons. The site of the Showrooms (Mr. George) adjoining, was a few years ago, occupied by stacks of bark.

OSWALD ROAD.

Oswald Road. Upon the space forming the entrance hereof, and fronting Leg Street, was a drapery establishment known as London House, in the occupation of Mr. Edward Davies Jones, with a residence in the rear. A writer describes it as having two large old-fashioned windows with small panes, the interior being always dressed in the same style and with the same sort of antique dress materials suspended in the centre. After Mr. Jones' death, the business was conducted by his widow, Mrs. Frances Jones, who died in 1859, when the stock-in-trade was sold. Beside the residence in the rear there was also a large building, in which, in 1822, a Commercial School was kept by Mr. Richard Cross, the owner of the premises, and who erected Bryn-

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hafod. In 1853 this school was conducted by Mr. R. Richards, who removed to No. 58, Willow Street, being succeeded here by Mr. John Hughes who, later, also removed to Willow Street. About 1860 the entire block was demolished to make an approach to the Cambrian Railway Station. The water from the Castle fields, which crossed Beatrice Street just below the Plough Inn and that coming down from the English Walls, met near the Cambrian Coal Wharf or bottom of Coney Green, where several fetid pools were formed just in front of where Cambrian Buildings and Presbyterian Church, now stand, and into which pits the refuse from the open channels or gullies of the town was deposited. At the time of the visitation of the Cholera, in 1832, the medical gentlemen of the town ordered "that the pond called Hilditch's pool, and the mud pits in Coney Green be cleansed and filled with water." Some of these came within the line of the proposed road, and as the approach from the town was to decide the position of the station, a meeting of the Street Commisssioners was called in 1858, when it was decided, in order to get the Railway Company to adopt this route, that the town should make the culvert, but, later, a contribution of £100 was accepted instead, by the Railway Company or the Contractor, and the road, now known as Oswald Road, was duly made. But so far as its maintenance was concerned it appeared to be without any responsible owner until 1872 when the paths were first tiled. In 1866 the surplus land was sold by public auction, the corner piece facing Leg Street and the new road, realized 44s., four lots to opposite Public Hall averaged 26s., and the remainder, beyond, averaged 15s. per square yard, (*Report*) and one of the purchasers became so impatient to secure the patronage anticipated in this locality that he erected several feet of walling without regard to the regulations of the local authorities, with the result that the whole had to be taken down and set some distance back.

A fine building standing upon the south side is

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the Presbyterian Church, the memorial stones of which were laid in 1888, and opened in 1889, the cost being about £2500.

Beyond are Cambrian Buildings, erected in 1869 by Mr. Samuel Dyas, and the Cambrian Railway Station, wherein the business of the Company is transacted, and which was erected in 1862 at a cost of £8000. The first sod of the Oswestry and Newtown Railway was cut, with great ceremony, in the Bowling Green Meadow, adjoining the ancient Domen Mill, at Welshpool, on the 1st August, 1857, by Lady Williams Wynn, and a second turf by Mrs. Owen of Glansevern, and on May 1st, 1860, the first passenger train from the Oswestry station left at 9.15 in the morning, and ran as far as Pool Quay, the engine used being named "Glansevern."

The cutting of the first sod of the Oswestry section of the Oswestry, Ellesmere and Whitchurch railway was performed by Miss Myra Katherine Ann Kinchant of Park Hall, in the Shelf Bank field, on the 4th September, 1862, in the presence of upwards of 3000 people. The following ladies and gentlemen afterwards performed the same ceremony:—Miss Lloyd (daughter of the Mayor), Miss Moore, Mr. T. Barnes, Quinta, Mr. Kinchant, Park Hall, Mr. John Stanton, Miss Jebb, Mr. G. H. Whalley (Chairman of the Board of Directors), Mr. Howell of Welshpool, and Messrs. Allinson and Parry, Bailiffs of Ellesmere. The Committee appointed to conduct the ceremonies, which included a procession through the town, several presentations, a collation, and a treat to over a thousand children, was composed of the Mayor (Mr. David Lloyd, Wynnstay Arms Hotel), Aldermen Thomas, Morris and Minshall, Councillors Phillips, Hilditch, Dale, Saunders, E. W. Thomas, John Thomas and Benjamin Roberts, Dr. Fuller, and Messrs. John Morris, builder, David Rees, banker, J. F. Whitridge, W. H. G. Weaver, Henry Davies (Treasurer), and J. Askew Roberts (Secretary). The line was opened for traffic on the 27th July, 1864. (Of the before-named, one only survives—the

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Mayor's daughter, Miss Mary Lloyd, 22, Upper Brook Street.)

Another Railway running into this station is the Tanat Valley Light Railway, the first sod of which was cut by the Countess of Powis, in a field near the National Schools, at Porthywaen, on September 12th, 1899. Additional sods were cut by Mrs. Leslie, Bryntanat, Mrs. Stanley Leighton, Mrs. Humphreys-Owen, Mrs. Herbert Roberts, Mrs. Pryce-Jones, Mrs. C. E. Williams, Mrs. J. Parry-Jones, Mrs. W. H. Thomas and Mrs. A. J. Collin.

Upon the north side of the road leading from the Cambrian station are Alpha Terrace, erected in 1866 by Mr. Thomas James, Oswald Chambers, by Mr. Henry Lewis in 1869, and the Public Hall, a handsome edifice of the Italian style, with a square tower on south-west side, erected by the Oswestry Public Hall Company, Limited, from plans prepared by Messrs. Bidlake & Spaull, and opened in April, 1864. In January, 1868, a United Prayer Meeting was held herein, when a churchman, Mr. T. L. Longueville, of Penylan, presided, and the Rev. F. Cashel, Vicar of Trinity, the Rev. George Cuthbert, Curate-in-charge of the Parish Church, and various Dissenters, took part in it. (*Os. Advertizer*).

It was also in this building, in 1870, at a meeting presided over by Mr. Edmund Wright of Halston, that the Town Library was established. Efforts were made to obtain such an institution as early as 1822, when three performances, to raise the necessary funds, were given in the New Theatre. The receipts amounted to £147 12s. 6d., but the expenses (scenery etc.) absorbed nearly all the takings. Another attempt was by the formation ,in 1838, of the Young Men's Institute, which was originated by the Rev. William Reeve, minister of the Old Chapel, and a few members of his congregation. Just then Mr. John Davies of Chesterfield, bequeathed to Mr. Charles Sabine, Solicitor, the sum of £50 " to be applied by him for the benefit of the Oswestry Young Men's Institute in such manner as he should think fit."

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With this money Mr. Sabine purchased the Encyclopædia Britannica, 7th Edition (now in the Town Reference Library), and other useful books. The meetings were for some time held in the vestry of the Chapel, afterwards in the British School, the Guildhall, and in a room at No. 12, The Cross (upon premises occupied by Mr. Richard Jones, Hatter), the President then being Mr. T. L. Longueville (who gave £25 for the purchase of books), Mr. Peploe Cartwright, Vice-President, Mr. J. T. Jones, Treasurer, and Mr. Charles Minshall, Hon. Secretary, but owing to lack of support the Committee were obliged to relinquish the latter premises, and for many years nothing more was done. After the first-named meeting (1870), about 1800 volumes were handed over by the Society, and £560 was raised by public subscription and devoted to the purchase of new books. The first Librarian was Mr. Tom Jones, and his successor, Mr. Cowper. In May, 1890, the Public Libraries Act was unanimously adopted at a meeting of the Burgesses, over which the Mayor, Mr. John Thomas, presided, the resolution being moved by the Rev. Thomas Redfern, and seconded by Mr. Owen Owen of the High School. In the month of August following, the Reading Room was taken over by the Public Library Committee and declared open to the general public free of charge, and the books then upon the shelves, handed over to the Town by the Trustees. The Library was removed to the Guildhall in January, 1895.

LEG STREET—*continued.*

Returning to Leg Street, the first building upon the right is

No. 19, *The Queen's Hotel.* This, in the middle of the eighteenth century, was a small inn, and formed part of the Aston Estate of Mr. Richard Lloyd. In 1784 it was sold by the Rev. John Robert Lloyd to Mr. John Holbrooke, architect, the occupier about that time being Mr. Nathaniel Price. The next

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occupier was Mr. Robert Edwards, for many years Clerk of the Course at Oswestry races. He died in 1834 aged eighty-four, and was succeeded by Mr. William Edwards. At that time the "Nettle," a coach travelling from Welshpool to Chester, called here every morning at half-past six and the return coach at half-past three in the afternoon, and the *Royal Oak* coach left here daily at three in the afternoon, reaching Welshpool at five and Newtown at seven o'clock, the fares being, to Welshpool, inside, 6s., outside, 3s. 6d. to Newtown, 11s. and 7s., returning the following day, Newtown at eight and Welshpool at ten, reaching Oswestry at noon. After the opening of the Gobowen branch railway in 1848, the *Royal Oak* Coach was timed to leave Oswestry daily at one o'clock in the afternoon, and to reach Newtown at five.

Mr. John Lloyd became the proprietor in 1870, and during his occupation the building was considerably enlarged and made into a first-class commercial hotel. The portion next No. 17, with a malthouse in the rear, was separate property and belonged to Mr. Thomas Vernon in 1784, two of its occupiers previous to its acquisition by the owner of the Queen's Hotel property, being Mr. Nathaniel Lowther and Mr. William Bolus.

No. 17 (*Mr. Lacon*). This is believed to be the oldest established business in the town, and has been carried on uninterruptedly upon the same premises, and, succeessively by four generations of the same family. Mr. William Lacon (who married Miss Rebekah Hawley) commenced in 1786, trading in Grocery, Drapery and Ironmongery, and was made a free burgess in 1790. He died in 1847 aged eighty, and was succeeded by his son, Mr. John Lacon, who was born in 1790, and in 1825 married Mary, daughter of the Rev. John Whitridge. The business during his time was confined to Grocery and Ironmongery, and about the year 1860 was handed over to his eldest son, Mr. William Henry Lacon (born in 1832), by whom the Grocery department was relinquished.

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Mr. Lacon was in 1886 chosen to be Jubilee Mayor, re-elected the following year, appointed a Justice of the Peace in 1903, and died in 1911, when the business passed to his eldest son, Mr. Alfred Eustice Lacon, the present proprietor.

No. 15, *Oxford House* (*Miss Williams*), was formerly a public house called the Coach and Horses, and when offered for sale by auction, in 1803, was in the holding of Mr. James Barratt at the annual rent of £25. Mr. Barratt probably acquired the property then, for until that date he was sub-agent of the Pentre Pant Estate, and when, in recognition of his upright conduct, he was presented with a silver cup by his employer, Mr. G. H. Carew. His successor at this Inn was Mr. Richard Prynallt, who left in 1830 when Mr. Thomas Jones became the tenant. Mr. Jones had a rather unruly son, known in the town, because of his connection with this place, as "Tom the Coach." He was frequently in prison, and it is said that he latterly made it a point of getting committed just before Christmas every year so as to ensure the usual treat of beef and plum pudding, believed to be served out to the prisoners upon that day, Mr. Jones removed to the Plough Hotel and was succeeded by Mr. William Powell, the rent paid by him at that time (1845) being £26 per annum. The next tenant was Mr. James Barratt (father of Mr. Arthur Barratt, Willow Street) during whose occupation the license ceased. The house, a low-walled structure, with a high pitched roof, became so dilapidated that it had to be rebuilt, a stone inserted in the front giving the date of this as 1855. It afterwards became the residence of Dr. William Roderick, until his removal to Oswald Road in 1876, where he died in 1895. During Mr. Roderick's occupation, a room in the house was set apart for the Plymouth Brethren in which religious meetings were held for a period cf about twenty years.

In 1877 the premises were opened by Mr. John T. Whitridge, Printer and Stationer, and were called the Albion Printing Works. The depot of the

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S.P.C.K. was removed here from Cross Street, remaining until 1885 when it was transferred to the Library, Mr. Whitridge, in the same year, removing to Smithfield Street. Subsequent tenants were the Liverpool Sweet Supply Co., and Mr. D. J. Lewis, Newsagent, the latter naming the premises Oxford House.

No. 13, *Leicester House* (*Mr. Passmore*), was for many years occupied by Mr. Edward Jones, Draper, who in 1874 was succeeded by Mr. George Duncombe, Tobacconist. Upon the latter's removal to No. 12 the occupiers became Messrs. E. T. Williams (1896), A. P. Roberts, Provision Dealer (1904), and — Tudor.

No. 11, the same property as No. 13, and erected in 1850, was also a public house and called "The Leopard," kept by John Southall. It was afterwards turned into a fish shop. Mr. Southall died in 1881, after when Mrs. Jane Southall and her daughter opened in the Confectionery business, the succeeding tenants being Messrs. A. Barclay, Grocer (1899), A. P. Roberts & Co., and Sweet Stores.(1904). In 1861 Mr. Burnett Southall opened a Commercial school in a room at the rear.

No. 9 (*Miss Leake*). The occupiers here since 1840 have been Mr. James Vaughan, Cabinet Maker, Miss Duckett, Milliner (1854), Miss Rose Fanny Roberts, who kept a dame school, Messrs. William Williams (son of Mr. David Williams, The Cross), Cabinet Maker, Samuel Dyas, Housefurnisher, and the Misses C. & A. Leake.

No. 7 (*Mr. Taverner*) has had the following occupiers :—Misses Davies & Brayne, Milliners (1854), Mr. Thomas Cross, a professional Ornithologist, and (in 1870) Mr. William Wright, Baker and Confectioner.

No. 5. One of the longest to occupy this was Mr. Edward Thomas, Bootmaker, who came here from Brook Street in 1853.

No. 1 (*Mr. Boffey*) has been a butcher's shop for more than half-a-century, the several tenants being Messrs. John Rees (1862), George Jackson, John Thomas, who afterwards removed to 31, Castle Street

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(1870), Philip Roberts (1874, died 1877), Edward Venables and John Davies.

Nos. 14 *and* 12 (*Mr. Fear*) was formerly two shops. No. 14, in 1845, being occupied by Mrs. Mary Oliver. Subsequent tenants were Mrs. Matthew Lloyd, Mrs. William Morris (Wool and Fancy Repository), Mrs. Stewart, and Mrs. G. T. Roberts (1885) as the Chester Sweet Supply Stores. No. 12 was occupied by Mr. John Oliver, Cooper, who died in 1879, his successor being Messrs. George Duncombe (from No. 13, who in 1883 left for No. 4, Cross Street), T. W. Mitchell, Tailor, and Griffith T. Roberts, Clothier, who rebuilt the front and converted the block into one shop.

The Osborne Vaults are of recent date; the first floor forming the warehouse of Mr. Elijah Evans, Corn Merchant.

No. 6, *Unicorn Buildings* (*Mr. Dodd*), are also comparatively new. The occupiers have been Messrs E. Wynne (1882), T. W. Stephenson (1886), and W. H. Reed, all House Furnishers.

After passing the yard entrance of the Unicorn Hotel, and upon the site of Nos. 4 and 2, Leg Street, and 8, Albion Hill (Mr. Gwillam) there formerly stood a very ancient looking block, comprising three dwellings, that in 1842 belonged to Messrs. Poole and Haslam as the Reps. of Mr. William Griffiths, Mayor 1766. The walls were of dingy bricks with stone dressings, the principal shop being approached up several steps, protected by iron hand-rails, and upon the front of the house was fixed a plate shewing distances along the Holyhead Road, for the guidance of the coaches passing that way. The premises had been in the occupation of several generations of braziers named Batterbee, that the spot became known as "Batterbee's Corner." Mr. Webb and Mrs. Clarke occupied the lesser premises, and the last of the braziers, Mr. John Batterbee, died in 1880, soon after which event the buildings were demolished, and the present block erected.

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Other houses mentioned as being in "Legge Streete," the perambulation of which has been completed, are "The Rose and Crown," (John Edwards, 1668, Nathaniel Edwards, 1684), "The Bull" (Richard Jones, 1660, Richard Parry, 1682, Francis Thomas, 1690, John Thomas, 1731), "Royal Oak" (Richard Whittaker, 1681), and the "Hog and Armour" (Thomas Vaughan, 1720, David Morgan, 1730).

ALBION HILL.

Albion Hill, so named about seventy years ago, upon the introduction of a type of printing press into the works at No. 38, Bailey Street, previous to which this short length was counted as being a continuation of Leg Street or Beatrice Street to the Bailey Head.

South Side, No. 8 (*Part of*), was of the same property as "Batterbee's Corner," and, for about thirty-five years, occupied by Mr. Griffith Edmunds, a Military Tailor, who exhibited the royal arms above his shop door. He came here from No. 41, Willow Street, and died in 1879.

No. 6, *Unicorn Inn.* The occupiers have been as follows:—Messrs. Richard Phillips (1781), John Thomas (1759), John Wilson (1768), William Edwards (1801), Edward Edwards (1828), John Maddocks ((1859) John Hughes (1862), (Mrs.) Rebecca Hughes, and Robert Phillips. A Court of the Ancient Order of Forresters was established here in 1840.

No. 4, approached by several steps, was in 1845 occupied by Mrs. Mary Davies, Confectioner, and succeeded by Mrs. Mary Bridden (1852), Miss Emma Davies (1855) and Mrs. Owen (1856), all Confectioners. The latter in 1858 removed to No. 2, the succeeding tenants being Mr. J. Berry (for Oswestry Gas Company) and Mr. George Perks, Confectioner.

No. 2, in 1858, was taken by Mrs. Owen, Confectioner, who left in 1861, when Mr. Robert Lloyd

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commenced in the Drapery business. He left in the following year for Glasgow House, and was succeeded by Mr. George Perks, Grocer, from Gibraltar House, who, upon taking No. 36 Bailey Street, retained this for the drapery department.

BAILEY HEAD.

Formerly the Pitcher Bank.

Offices of Messrs. Minshall, Pugh & Co. The site of these, up to 1859, was occupied by two Cottages tenanted in 1852 by John and Joseph Pratt, and afterwards by Richard Turner, nailer, and Richard Jones, Butcher, the latter having a slaughter house at the rear, while the sloping ground in front was used on fair days for the sale of Crockery. The property was acquired by Mr. Thomas Minshall, who demolished the old cottages, and about 1866 had the present building erected for offices which previously were at Castle View, near by.

Castle View, recently re-fronted, was erected about 1841 by Mr. Thomas Minshall, Solicitor, for his own occupation.

Mr. Minshall, who was the eldest son of Mr. Nathaniel Minshall, Solicitor, and Sarah (Roberts) his wife, married in 1835 Maria, only daughter of Mr. David Thomas of the Cross, Mercer. He entered the Town Council early in life and served as Mayor in 1851 (the first Nonconformist in the town elected under the Municipals Reform Act) and again in 1880. He died the senior Alderman in 1890. For more than half-a-century Mr. Minshall was one of the most prominent men in Oswestry, taking a warm interest in all that concerned the social, political and religious life of the town and neighbourhood. As an earnest and devout Congregationalist, he declined, when elected to the Civic Chair, to conform to the old custom of attending the Parish Church in state, and, in 1880, when it had become the practice for Mayors to give banquets to the Council and Borough Officials,

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he, true to his principles as a life-long teetotaller, provided a most sumptuous repast, but, without any intoxicants. Mrs. Minshall died in 1911 at the age of ninety-seven..

Old Lockup. Opposite Castle View, and where now stands the entrance to Christ Church was a building erected by the Borough (the then prison authority) upon a site given by Lord Powis, Lord of the Manor, and on the face of which was a stone inscribed :—

BOROUGH GAOL, 1826.
JOHN JONES, ESQ., Mayor.
JOHN MYTTON, ESQ., Coroner.

The Hundred being still without separate accommodation for the temporary detention of prisoners, a contribution was made towards the building fund, and which was acknowledged in the following manner :—

" We the Mayor, Aldermen, Common Council and Burgesses of the Borough of Oswestry in the County of Salop do hereby acknowledge that His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the County of Salop have allowed the sum of £150 in aid of the monies expended in erecting and completing the new Gaol within the said Borough of Oswestry aforesaid, upon condition that His Majesty's Justices of the Peace for the said County shall have the use of the said Gaol for the confinement of seven prisoners until they shall be discharged or committed to the Shrewsbury Gaol. And we do hereby approve of and agree to the said Condition upon which the said sum of £150 has been allowed. In witness whereof we have hereunto caused the Common Seal of the said Corporation of Oswestry to be affixed and have also set our hands hereto this 16th day of June, 1827.

Thomas Edwards, Mayor ; John Jones, Coroner ; James Donne, Edward Edwards, Aldermen ; J. V. Lovett, John Mytton, Roger W. Cockerill, Common Councillors ; Thomas Morris, John Croxon, James Williams, Wm. Roberts, Burgesses."

The Building comprised a Keeper's residence, three lock-up cells and two airing yards, used only for the temporary detention of prisoners arrested locally, or brought over from Shrewsbury gaol for trial (the maintenance allowance therefor being five pence per head per day), for Oswestry in 1846 had contracted to send its prisoners to Shrewsbury.

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OSWESTRY CASTLE.

From an ancient Drawing belonging to an inhabitant of Dudleston.

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"In 1865 another Prisons Act was passed, which left the Borough still the Prison authority, bound to maintain its own prisoners, either in its own prison or by contract with some other authority, but which restricted its power to build a new prison by requiring the sanction of the Secretary of State and imposing conditions as to accommodation, etc., among others that a chapel must be provided; and the Act authorized the Prison authority to sell any prison which appeared to be unnecessary in consequence of provision having been made for prisoners elsewhere. The Oswestry Gaol had nothing like the accommodation required ,nor was there space for providing it, even if it had been otherwise desirable, and the agreement with the County made it unnecessary. Therefore in 1869 when the Trustees of the old Chapel of the Independents applied to purchase the old Gaol the Corporation determined to sell it to them, the old Gaol (though not older than 1826) being reported as inconvenient, unhealthy and defective. The agreement was for the sale of 150 square yards in the Pitcher Bank on which the Borough Gaol or Lock-up stands, with the buildings thereon, to the trustees 'of the Church or Society of Congregationalists or Independents meeting in the Old Chapel in the town of Oswestry,' and the trustees were to erect for the Borough a new Gaol or Lock-up on a site near the Horse Market, containing 155 square yards and being part of the Red Lion property near the back of the Powis Market, the Borough paying £100 towards the cost."—(*Oswestry Borough Gaol*, by Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon.)

The foregoing arrangement was duly carried out. The old entrance door, heavily studded with square-headed nails, is now in a passage at the back of the Bull's Head Inn, Willow Street. The last keeper was Sergeant John Edwards.

Christ Church. The ground just referred to adjoining the property of the Independents was secured as a site upon which to erect a new Chapel. The old lock-up was quickly demolished, and whilst the excavations were being made some stone-work, presumably a portion of the town wall, was discovered by the workmen. The memorial stone was laid on the 7th September, 1871, by Sir James Watt, Knt., of Abney Hall, Cheadle, and the imposing edifice—a cruciform building of Cefn stone, consisting of nave, transept, and side aisles and a tower with spire about 120 feet high, and costing upwards of £5,000, was opened for public worship on October 18th, 1872, its name henceforth to be Christ Church.

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The Communion plate belonging to Christ Church consists of a flat-lidded tankard-flagon (made in Chester in 1690), a Salver or large Paten on foot (made in London, 1702), and a cup (porringer) with two handles (made in London, 1709), bequeathed by Mrs. Sarah Lloyd of Oswestry (together with £200, in 1727,) " for the use of the said Protestant Dissenting congregation, to be used at the administration of the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper thereof," and is thus described in her will, " My largest silver caudle-cup and my largest silver tankard and my largest silver salver." The coat-of-arms on the tankard is the one borne by the Lloyds of Montgomeryshire, namely :— 1. *Sa.*, three nags' heads erased two and one *ar.* (Brochwel Ysgythrog, Prince of Powys) ; 2. *Sa.*, a chevron between three owls *ar.* (Broughton). Also two silver-gilt cups (bearing the hall-mark of George III) and a pewter salver (probably acquired during the pastorate of Dr. Edward Williams between 1784 and 1792), and a modern flagon and four cups, presented by the Rev. T. Gasquoine in 1871.

Proceeding northwards along the front of the last building we come to the boundary of what was the Castle field (No. 19 on map) to which the Castle Bank was open on the north side, and in 1795 belonged to Mr. George Venables of Mount Vernon, Liverpool, brother of the Rev. Joseph Venables, who resided at Castle House, Willow Street. This Mr. Venables was also elected a free-man in 1755, and in 1794 presented the Corporation with four fac-simile silver candlesticks 11¾ inches high. The field took in what is now Chapel Street extending to the present Castle Street upon the one side, and to Albert Road upon the other, the area being nearly six acres. The fence at this point came up to the site of Christ Church, the Tannery and upper part of Willow Street being reached by a footpath. About the year 1840 the portion next Christ Church was opened for building purposes, Castle Cottage (Mr. T. H. Jones) being erected in 1857, and what is now Chapel Street constructed in 1859-60 and named in 1866.

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Hermon Chapel. In 1842, land was purchased from Mr. James Vaughan, and a small building erected thereon by the Welsh Independents or Congregationalists, who up to then held religious services in a room at the Red Lion Inn, Bailey Head. The first sermon preached in the new building was upon Palm Sunday, 1843, and by 1861 the total expenditure, £400, was cleared off by the little church. When this was accomplished, more accommodation was required, and in the following year the building was demolished, and the present one, designed by the Rev. Thomas Thomas, Glandwr, was erected at a cost of £1100, and opened for public worship in June, 1863.

THE CASTLE.

Castle Bank. This elevated ground, held by early writers to be an "artificial mount," is believed to be a heap of glacier debris, similar to the Shelf-bank and Old Oswestry, its borders having been levelled to form the Bailey Head, Pitcher Bank and Horse Market.

The date of the erection of a castle upon its summit is not known, but the building existed before the Norman Conquest. The first mention of the place, by name, is in a French metrical romance of the doings of Fulk Fitzwarine, a Norman noble. The chronicler, after relating the successes along the Welsh border, in 1068, says :—

"The King (William the Conqueror) came to a country adjoining the White Laund, which belonged formerly to a Briton, Meredus son of Beledius (Meredydd ap Bleddyn, Prince of North Wales) and inside it is a little castle which is called the Tree of Oswald, but now it is Oswaldestre. The King called a knight —Alan Fitz Flaad, and gave him the little castle with all the honour appertaining to it."

Humphrey Llwyd (or Lloyd), the Welsh historian, in quaint language, tells us what is probably the real story :—

"The Normans having gotten into their hands all the lands and livings of the nobilitie of England, began to spie into the

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commodities of Wales, and, seeing that Robert Fitzhaman and the other knights that went with him had sped so well, they made suite to the King to graunt them the lands of the Welshmen. Thereupon the King, thinking that the best waie for him ,as well as to encourage them to be the more willing to serve him, as also to provide for them, graunted to divers of his nobles, sundrie Counties in Wales to hold of him by knight's service, as followeth, Roger Montgomery, Earl of Montgomery and Salop.

Earl Roger, in his turn, conferred the Hundred of Mersete, comprising Oswestry, upon Warin (surnamed the Bald) as sheriff of Salop, and also gave him his niece in marriage. He is said to have been "little in body, but great in soul." He died in 1085, and his widow married Rainald, another Norman noble, but she kept her first husband in mind, for she "gave for his soul a house in Shrewsbury, and covenanted that she herself, living in the said house as tenant to the Abbey, she would provide candles to light the Church every night for the whole year." This Rainald was the person mentioned in *Domesday* and probably he added to the Castle then in existence. His successor was the Alan Fitz Flaad, or Flaan, before mentioned, but his connection with his predecessor was obscure. Eyton is inclined to believe that this Alan was a son or grandson of Fleance, son of Banquo, who was murdered by Macbeth. His eldest son, William Fitzalan, who succeeded him here, was ancestor of the Earls of Arundel and through them of the Duke of Norfolk, and his second son, Walter (believed to have been born in Oswestry) became Steward or Seneschal to David I, King of Scotland, and was known as "Walter the Steward," which was eventually corrupted into "Stuart" and "Stewart," and from him the Stewart family and the present royal family of England derived their ancestry. (*Story of Oswestry Castle* by Mr. J. Parry Jones).

The Fitzalans, although owners, do not appear to have taken possession of the Castle, for shortly after the event first quoted, the kingdom of Powys became subject to the before-mentioned Meredydd ap Bleddyn, in honour of whom this town, for a time,

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(Photo, Mr. J. Owen).

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was named Tre-fred. His arms were *Or* a lion's gamb in bend *Gules*, armed *Sable* and erased. He died in 1133 and is by Powel referred to as "the greatest lord and cheefest man in Powys, as he that had gotten his brethren and nephews lands by hooke and by crooke into his owne hands." Upon his death this district was bestowed upon his eldest son Madog ab Meredydd ab Bleddyn, and from him called Powys Fadog. He was a prince of an amiable character and more than ordinary talent. Powel's testimony is that he was "ever the King of England's friend, and was one that feared God and relieved the poor." Cynddelw, Gwalchmai and other contemporary poets composed several poems in his praise, highly extolling him.

Llwyd says "Towards the end of the year 1148, Madoc the son of Meredith ap Bleddyn, did build the castell of Oswestry," and John Davies writes:—"Maddock ap Meredith, prince of Lower Powis, did build the castle of Oswestrie called Twr Maddock, An'o d'ni 1149, about the 4th yeere of the Reyne of Kinge Stephen of England." In all probability Madog only enlarged the building, but *erected* the castles of Caereinion and Overton, in which latter he resided. He married firstly Susanna, the daughter of Gruffydd ab Cynan, prince of North Wales, by whom he had three sons, named Gruffydd Maelor, Owain, and Elise, and one daughter, Marred, who became the wife of Iorwerth Drwyndwn, and mother of Llewelyn the Great. He had also three illegitimate sons, Owain Brogyntyn, Cynfrig Efell and Einion Efell (Llwynymaen). He bore for arms, *Argent* a lion rampant *Sable*, armed and langued Gules, according to the *Visitations of Salop*, but in the Lingen pedigree his arms are thus emblazoned:—Paly of six *Or* and *Gules*, over all a lion rampant *Sable*. In his dotage he married, secondly, Matilda or Maud Verdon, an Englishwoman, and entailed the lordship of Oswestry upon her and her heirs by him to be begotten, and because they could not agree to cohabit together, she made her complaint to the King of England, who sent for

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Madog, and it was concluded that Madog would come to Winchester and refer the case to the decision of arbitrators, and that neither party should bring more than twenty-four horses in their retinue, consequently Madog brought twenty-four horses and twenty-four riders, and the lady met him with twenty-four horses and two men on every horse, so Madog's party was overpowered by this treachery, and he was apprehended and imprisoned in Winchester, and compelled to entail the lordship of Oswestry on her and her heirs by *whomsoever* begotten. He died at Winchester in 1160 (or 1161 according to the *Annales Cambriæ*) whence his body was conveyed and buried in the church of Tysilio at Meifod. Mr. William Jones, of Llangadfan, the translator of *Cae Cyriog* MSS., adds, " It is beyond all doubt that Madog was murdered at Winchester by the instigation of his loving wife; his elegy (in ancient Welsh) by Cynddelw Brydydd Mawr, which I have by me, concludes thus :—

" Ae ddiwedd ys bi can, bu y leith
Y ddiwyn y cam cymeint y affeith
Yg goleuder seint ig goleudeith
Y goleuad rhad, rhydid perffeith."

" Thus literally :—' Since he lost his life may he in recompence for the flagitious injustice remain in the glorious hierarchy of saints, in the presence of grace, in perfect bliss.' " (*Mont. Worthies.*)

William, the eldest son of Alan Fitz-Flaad, married Isabel de Say, daughter and heiress of Helias de Say, Lord of Clun (which marriage brought to the Fitzalans the title of Clun) and to them was born a son William, who, for a second wife, took Maud de Verdon, widow of the before-named Madog ap Meredydd, and it was in this manner that the English became *possessed* of the lordship of Oswestry. John Davies, referring to this marriage, says William Fitzalan " obtained the hono', castle, Towne and Seigniory of Oswestry, with all the members thereof, in the right of this Lady his wief, and hee resided at Oswestry. This Willia' was the first of the Fitzalans

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that was Lord and Baron of Oswestry, but the second of that surname beinge the sonne of Willia' the son of Alan whoe came in with the Conqueror." About 1187, Baldwin, Archbishop of Canterbury, went on a preaching tour in furtherance of the Crusade, accompanied by his Archdeacon Gerald de Barri (Giraldus Cambrensis). The latter wrote :—

"We directed our way from Chester . . . . towards Oswaldestreo, where on the very borders of Powys we were met by Griphinus (Gruffydd) son of Madoc and Elisset, princes of that country and many others. Some few of them having been persuaded to take the Cross (for several of the multitude had been previously signed by Regnerius the bishop of that place) we slept at Oswaldestreo, that is Oswald's Tree, where we spent the next night, we were entertained by William, Alan's son, a young man of high birth and good education. His hospitality was truly English—most lavish and more magnificent and sumptuous than was seemly. We would fain have refused it, but he urged us and would not be gainsaid."

(*Shrop. Arch. Trans.*, Vol. 3.)

This William, also, about 1190, granted the first Charter to Oswestry, which, on account of its brevity, is called "Siarter Cwtta" (Davies MS.).

According to an account (preserved at the Record Office) of the expenditure at the Castle during the minority of William Fitzalan, the garrison consisted of 200 soldiers who cost £5 3s. 9d., while one knight, two porters and two watchmen, constantly resident, cost £18 5.s per annum for their maintenance, or 1s. per day between them. A well sunk under the castle cost £5 8s., the Castle palisades 40s. and stores of war £6.

The Fitzalans, like other Lords Marchers, had their own laws and power of life and death, and were as petty kings, in return for which they had to keep the Welsh in order and repel the frequent incursions into England. They also had constables of their castles, who often domineered over and illtreated the inhabitants, and of such were some of the Constables of Oswestry Castle, for in 1277, prince Llewelyn lodged a complaint that

"The said Constable (of Oswestry) compelled the said Llewelyn to send two of his gentlemen to him, whom when they

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came to him he caused to be hanged, which Gentlemen ought not by right to have beene hanged, whose parents had rather have given him three hundreth pound. Afterwards the said Constable imprisoned threescore of the men of the said Llewelyn (no cause alledged) but that a certaine Page spake a word, who could not be delivered out of prison, until everie of them paid ten shillings. When the men of the said Llewelyn came to the said Towne to sell their oxen, the said constable would cause the beastes to be driven to the Castell, neither would he restore the beastes nor monie to them. Further the said Constable and his men took awaie the cattel of the said Llewelyn from his owne grounde and did their will with them." (Llwyd.)

Richard II. held a Parliament at Shrewsbury, probably in order to inspect the Fitzalan estates he had seized, which was adjourned to Oswestry, where one of the most memorable and dramatic scenes in the pages of Shakespeare took place. One could imagine the gay pageant ,as the monarch, so vain of his personal appearance, handsome and golden-haired, just thirty years of age, with his enormous retinue of servants clad in costly liveries, and the nobles of his Court, as he rode over the Shropshire plain and through the two long narrow streets of which Oswestry then consisted, up to the Castle. In his company were the two bitter foes, the Dukes of Hereford and Norfolk, the former better known as Harry Bolingbroke. On March 19th, 1398, in Oswestry Castle, they appealed to the King, who ordered them to fight their quarrel out at Coventry. 1398

Shakespeare began his play of *Richard II.* with the scene, but, by a poetical license, made it take place in the Tower of London instead of Oswestry Castle—

> "Face to face,
> And frowning brow to brow, ourselves will hear
> Th' accuser and th' accused freely speak."

And the noble appeal of Norfolk echoed through the walls of Oswestry Castle—

> "My dear, dear Lord,
> The purest treasure mortal times afford
> Is spotless reputation; that away
> Men are but gilded loam or painted clay.
> A jewel in a ten times barr'd up chest
> Is a bold spirit in a loyal breast."

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It was during his visit, and before the Parliament closed, that Richard II. granted the first royal charter to Oswestry, which is still in possession of the town, and ornamented by a fine initial illuminated portrait of the King. (Mr. J. Parry Jones in *Story of Oswestry Castle.*)

In 1528 complaint was made by one "Thomas ap Meredith of the Towne of Oswestre in the Marches of Wales" that

"Edward Trevor, Constable of Oswestre, John Trevor his sonne . . . being wylfull gentlemen accompanyed with diu'rs other mysruled p'sons" aftre making "divers assaults and frayes . . . cam into ye towne of Oswestre the said VIII daye and then and there shotte arrowes at yo'r orators sonne being of X yeares of ayge but yt God savyd hym and so shotte att other Dyvers honest mennes houses of the same towne in lyke forme, soe yt noo man durst come out of his house for jeopardy of theyr lives to the enorme and horrible ensample of good Rule."

Again,

"Augnes Clayton wedowe late wyffe off Hugh Clayton besecheth your hyghnes (Henry the Eighth) that whwere the seyd Hugh Clayton was at Oswestre in Goddys pease . . . Rychard Berkley of Oswestre yeoman s'vaunt unto Edward Trevor Constable of the Castelle of Oswestre in the seyd lordshyppe Thomas ap John Carter . . . and Edward ap John Carter . . . wyth force & armys that ys to say wyth byllys swerdys & bucklers agenst yo'r pease made assaulte uppon the seyd Hugh Clayton and hym then and there shamefully & felonously bete wounded kyld & murdered and afterwards the seyd Rychard Berkley was indyted before the coroner of the said lordshyppe for the deth & murder of the seyd Hugh Clayton as pryncypple and the seyd Thomas ap John carter and Edward ap John Carter were then before the seyd coroner indyted as accessoryes to the same murder and there uppon the seyd Constable and John Trevor hys son Baylye of the seyd towne of Oswestre took the seyd Thomas ap John Carter & Edward ap John Carter and put them in pryson and the seyd constable and baylye wylfully and favorabely not havyng r'pect nor good mynde to your lawes and good justice suffered the seyd Rychard Berkely then s'vaunt to the seyd constable to escape and goo hys weye in to a sanctuary called Halstone and conveye hys goodse & catallys theder wt hym where for browght the seyd Berkely after that he was indyted was wyth the seyd Constable & baylye waytyng uppon them so that they myght have taken and put hym in pryson as they dede the seyd ij accessoryes . . . and for asmuche as yr seyd oratryx can nor shalle not

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have indyfferent trialle & justice in the seyd lordshippe for due punysshment of the deth and murder of her seyd husbond because of the myght & rule that the seyd Constable & baylie have in the seyd lordshippe and for there grete favor that they bere to the said murderers to grant your grcyous letters of p'vay seale to be dyrected to the said constable & baylie com'aundyng them by the same to apere before yor seyd g'cyous hyghnes . . . there to aunswer . . . acordyng to yor lawes so that the seyd murderers maye not escape unpunyssed by the favor supportacion ayde and beryng of the seyd Constable & baylie, &c."—(Star Chamber Proceedings set out in *The Story of Oswestry Castle*).

In the seventeenth year of the reign of Henry VIII. "all the Lords Marchers in England were extinguished and their Royall authoritie subverted" (Davies MS.), and about that time Oswestry was annexed to England.

The last of the Fitzalans (Lords of Arundel) died in 1580, without male issue, and his daughter and heiress, Mary, married Thomas fourth Duke of Norfolk, whose crest, "a white horse," appears above the entrance in the illustration of Newgate in Church Street. On the attainder of the Duke of Norfolk for treason, his son Philip retained the Earldom of Arundel in right of his mother, together with the Baronies of Clun and Oswestry, the title —"Baron of Oswestry"—being still held by the family. Philip died a prisoner in the Tower of London in 1595 when the Crown took possession of his lands, and in 1603 James I. granted "the Lordship, Manor and Castle of Oswestrie" to Philip's half-brother, Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, one of the Captains in the Fleet which defeated the Armada, who subsequently disposed of his rights to Dame Elizabeth Craven, from whom it passed by descent to William Herbert, second Marquis of Powis, and hence through the female line to the present Earl of Powis, who is therefore Lord of the Manor of Oswestry (*The Story of Oswestry Castle*, by Mr. J. Parry-Jones).

From the beginning of the sixteenth century, the castle, still a formidable fortification, was occupied "by the Lords' own Officers to the Lords' use"

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until the Civil Wars in 1643, when it is recorded that

"The Lord Capelle (Royalist Lieutenant-General of the District) went lately to Oswestrie with 1000 horse and dragoones to fortifie the towne, and told the inhabitants that it must be extended and strengthened, because he heard that some rebels (Cromwell's Forces) were coming from London into the Country."

The Parliamentarians however, did not reach Oswestry until twelve o'clock on Saturday, 23rd June, 1644, and after the capturing of the Church, in the manner before described, they proceeded to

"batter the gate called Church gate (the Newgate) that the garrison could not stand at it, and General Mytton supposed it was soe, but not being sure, sent George Cranage, a bold daring young man to see whether it were soe, who took a hatchett in his hand and went to the drawbridge and found that the soldiers were gone and the gate was open, for the cannon had broken the doors, and this Cranage brooke the chaines of the drawbridge with his hatchett and lette it downe soe that the soldiers made haste to enter the town. Butt those that were within made like haste to meet them, which Cranage perceiving, and seeing a box of drakes standing within the gate ready charged, hee turned the box of drakes towards those in the towne, and one of Cranage's partners came with a firelocke and gave fire to them, which made such a slaughter among the garrison soldiers that they retreated to the Castle."—(Goughs' *History of Myddle*).

A further account of this attack is given in a Despatch from the Earl of Denbigh's quarters (appearing in Phillips' *Civil War in the Marches*), which reads :—

"Then (after taking the church) we brought up a sacre to the gate . . . . We shot the gate through at two shots and they fired from the gate at our men. But one of our men shot, striking a woman's bowels out, and wounding two or three, put them in fear, that they betook themselves to the castle. We forced open the gate and the horse entered resolutely, and by three o'clock were possessed of the town—as good a piece of service (God have all praise) as this year hath produced." ....
In the rush to the castle some timorous men (Royalists) got over the walls, one broke his arm falling, . . our men followed us to the castle . . . we made some shot with the great sacre, but they took little effect."

Gough, continuing the account, says :—

"Cranage being well rewarded (for his feat at Newgate) and well lined with sacke, was persuaded by the General to hang a buttar on the castle gate. Now a buttar is an iron shell as bigge as a pott, it was filled with powder and wild fire balls,

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and had an handle with an hole in it by which it might be fastened with a nayl to any place. Cranage takes this buttar, with a cart nayl and a hammer, and got from house to house into the house next the castle, and then stepping to the castle gate, hee fixed the buttar and stepping nimbly backe again escaped without any hurt, the buttar burst open the gate."

In a subsequent Despatch from the Earl of Denbigh's quarters it is stated:—

"That night my Lord called a Council of War, and ordered a strong guard, and designed a party of troopers to venture to fire the castle gates with pitch, but our men, wearied out, slipped the opportunity. My Lord, by break of day waking came to Captain Keme in the same house with him, and designed him to go forward with the design, but on his way there met him a party of women of all sorts down on their knees confounding him with their Welsh howlings, but he was fain to get an interpreter, which was to beseech me to retreat my Lord, before he blew up the castle, they might go up and speak to their husbands, children, and the officers which he moved, and my Lord condescended to, so that Captain Keme might go with them and a trumpet, which he did courageously, and carried this message. Then my Lord, to avoid the effusion of blood, offered them mercy, if they would accept of it, whereupon they threw down this paper (propositions propounded for the delivering up of the Castle). Capt. Keme returned leaving the women. My Lord refused to condescend. At last the women prevailed, and cried to me to come up. Then the two brave champions, Colonel Mytton and Captain Keme, went up, and they said they would repose themselves on such quarters as my Lord would sign to, which was their lives only. So they marched out, and we found 100 good muskets, besides others stolen away, eight halberts and officers to them, one barrel of powder and suitable match, many swords, and some few pistols, twenty gentlemen of Wales and Shropshire, divers officers and 200 prisoners, besides what were lost. Immediately (it being the Lord's day) my Lord called away all to go to Church to praise God, which was done, and our dead buried. In all this service we had but two slain and one horse, and but four wounded, blessed be God. This town is of great concernment. We had a Council of War at ten o'clock, at which my Lord-General (the Earl of Denbigh) made General Mytton Governor of Oswestry. And we have resolved upon a great design, which is to join with the Cheshire Forces, where Sir Thomas Myddleton is now at Nantwich, and hath been there four days, and go against Prince Rupert into Lancashire. I pray commend us specially now in your constant prayers to the Lord. Be doing as well as we, and praise God for his miraculous love by us a poor weak army."

On the Saturday following (June 29th) an attempt

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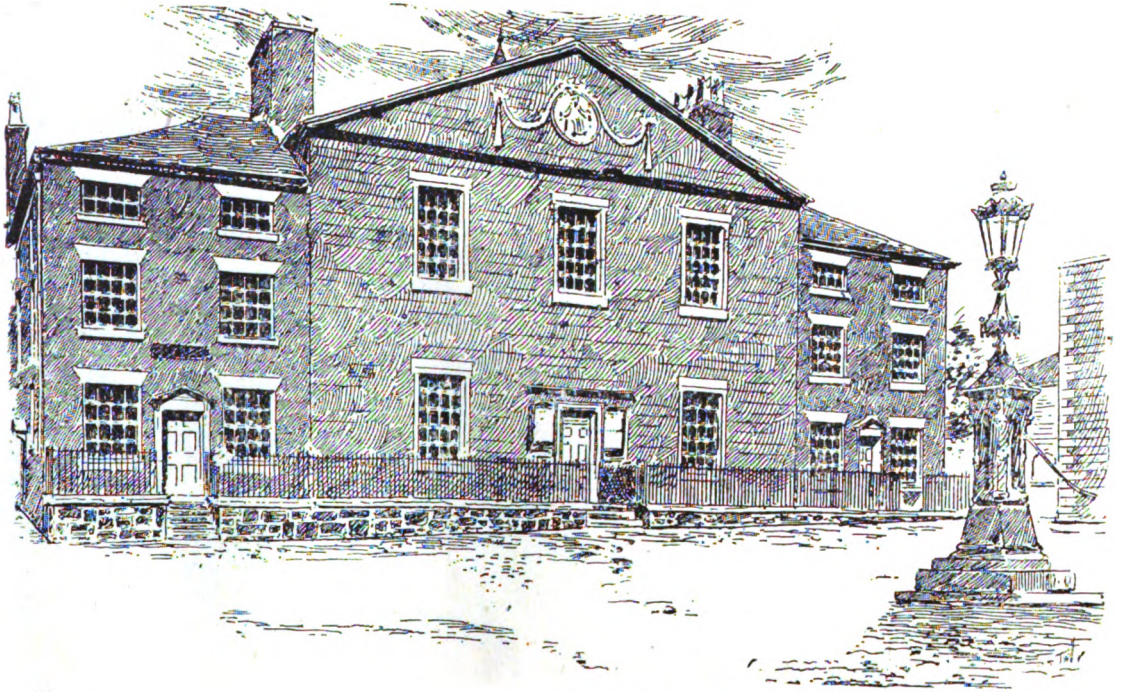

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GUILDHALL, erected 1782, demolished 1892. (Page 295).

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was made by the Kings Forces (1500 horse and 3800 foot under the command of Colonel Marrow) to re-capture the town. Mytton was obliged to immediately look around for reinforcements and despatched a message to his brother-in-law, Sir Thomas Myddleton, (of Chirk Castle, and Sergeant-Major for North Wales), then at Knutsford, more than fifty miles distant. The latter, on the following day, assembled his troops, and by two o'clock on the Tuesday afternoon came in sight of the town, and within three miles of it,

" where the enemy having got intelligence of our approach, were prepared to receive us. The chief forces of our enemy consisted of the valiant commanders and soldiers drawn out of the garrisons of Chester, Cheshire, Shrewsbury, Shropshire, Ludlow, Derbyshire and Flintshire, and other places. The enemy had taken up the passage of water near Whittington (Halston) and very furiously assaulted and charged us, but were repulsed, and forced to retire through the courage of our horse, who most courageously entertained the enemy. Three several times the skirmish was doubtful, either side being forced so often to retreat, but in the end, our foot forces coming up relieved the horse, beat back the enemy, and pursued them with such force that the horse, thereby encouraged, which indeed was formerly weary, joining with the foot, they put the enemy to an absolute flight, in which we pursued them five miles towards Shrewsbury, to a place called Felton Heath, and where we remained after their flight again masters of the field. In the skirmish with the enemy, and in the pursuit, we lost several of our horse, some of our troops, but never a footman which I am yet informed of . . . . As for the enemy they lost many stout men, and many of them taken prisoners. . . . And, besides, such was their haste in their flight, that we found in the way of pursuit, the highway, as it were, strewn with store of bread, cheese, bacon, and other good provisions, clothes and else such necessary appurtenances to an army, besides some whole veals and muttons newly killed. The enemy, before the relief came, had taken the Church, the strongest hold about the town. Upon the approach of the relief they suddenly deserted it, and sent their two battering pieces unto Shrewsbury. In the way also were taken by our forces, seven carts and wagons, laden with provisions, such as beer, bread and other necessaries, and one was laden with powder and other ammunition." (Sir Thos. Myddleton's Account in the Appendix to Phillips' *Civil War*).

Three years afterwards (1647)Parliament decided that " actual fortresses were to be so dealt with as to

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leave not more than picturesque ruins for the enjoyment of future generations."

In the Parliamentary Survey of 1652–3 before referred to, the premises are described as

"All that capitall messuage or manor house, commonly called Oswestrie Castle with its appurtenances, situate lyinge and being in ye Towne and parish of Oswestrie in ye County of Salop, within ye gate thereof abutting upon ye new Markette house on ye east, and upon ye towne wall of Oswestrie on ye west, containing about two acres two roods or thereabouts. The said castle is at present uninhabited, having lately been demolished, we have therefore taken a view of ye materialls thereof being stones only."

By 1673 it had been demolished "by ye late usurping powers," and on its table top are some fragments of masonry (believed to be the work of William Fitzalan in 1155) composed of large rolled boulders laid in a thick bed of mortar, very rude, but strong work. One fragment, which in places is about 8 feet thick, is 9 or 10 feet high, and near it are two other large masses, one of which, at least, is overthrown, and these are all that were left to mark its site. The only other relic is an oak board, bearing the arms of the Fitzalans, and believed to have been displayed in the castle, and was for many years used by an old woman for chopping sausage meat. It was discovered by the late Mr. Charles Sabine, and placed by him at the head of his drawing-room mantel, at Carreglwyd, but is now preserved in the Council Chamber.

The site of the castle soon became a "voyd place" and was left open upon the left side to the field, but at the beginning of the last century a retaining wall was erected along part of the south side (pitcher bank) at the cost of the Corporation.

Finding that the ground was fast wasting away, Mr. Charles Sabine, Senr., in 1852, induced a number of local gentlemen to subscribe for the purpose of purchasing the property from the Trustees of the late Mr. George Venables, and converting it into an aboretum. The ground was acquired for £50, and in March, 1853, conveyed to the late Mr. James Thomas

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GUILDHALL (West Side) erected 1782, demolished 1892.

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Jones of Brynhafod. The ancient site was then fenced in, and a door inserted in the wall, each subscriber of five shillings per annum, having the privilege of a key, the secretaries being Dr. Fuller and Mr. Charles Sabine. But in the absence of a fund for its maintenance the Bank again fell into neglect, and then to prevent its getting into the hands of outsiders, the late Alderman Thomas Minshall (one of the original subscribers) took possession and spent a considerable amount in planting and ornamenting it.

In view of the Jubilee of Queen Victoria, the then Mayor, Councillor W. H. Lacon, approached Alderman Minshall with a proposal that the Bank should be handed over to the town for conversion into a recreation ground. The consent of the subscribers, or their representatives, so far as they could be found, having been obtained it was so handed over, and in June, 1890, dedicated to the public of Oswestry, for ever, by the Mayor of that year, Mr. Arthur Wynne Corrie, upon which occasion a couple of marble tablets were inserted into the wall supporting the inner steps, one being inscribed :

"Oswestry Castle Grounds. These grounds are the property of the Mayor, Aldermen, and Burgesses of Oswestry, and were restored by public subscriptions in Commemoration of the Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Victoria, 1887."

and the other :

"Oswestry Castle Grounds. Opened to the Public on the 24th day of June, 1890, by A. Wynne Corrie, Esq., Mayor. W. H. Lacon, Jubilee Mayor, Hon. Treasurer; Councillor Robert Hughes, Hon. Secretary; J. Parry Jones, Town Clerk; James Bolton, Borough Surveyor."

The entrance is in the centre of the Pitcher Bank, through a pair of ornamental iron gates that were given by Mr. Charles Drew of the Wynnstay Hotel, opposite to which, inside, is a fountain the gift of the Sweeney Brick and Tile Co. In the garden ground, to the right, the stone fountain, which for many years stood in the Cross, was re-erected. The inner steps on each side are flanked by the old "Toll Through" pillars that formerly marked the site of Beatrice Gate, and which had to be removed upon

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the carrying out of some street improvements there, and the widow of the late Mr. J. T. Jones, Brynhafod, to whom the property was conveyed in 1853, contributed £100 towards the expense of planting the ground. The credit of originating the scheme and the carrying of it out was due to Councillor Robert Hughes (R. & R. Hughes & Co.).

BAILEY HEAD

According to a very old plan of the town, the Pound or pinfold of the Borough stood near the site of the inner steps leading up to the Castle Bank. The fence of the old lockup came up to the one side of it, and from the other a fence ran to the north-west corner of the County Police Station. In the Mayor's account for 1683 is the following entry "Pd. William Williams for repairing ye pinfold 00 : 03 : 04." In 1721 the town was presented for not repairing it, and in 1733 1s, 2d. was paid for a lock "to ye pinfold."

The open ground fronting the pinfold was used upon market days by dealers in ware and crockery, from which arose its name "Pitcher Bank," but upon fairs and special occasions, the "standings" of the vendors of nuts, oranges, and toffee and the caravans of Showmen also collected there.

Savings Bank. The first Savings Bank in the town was founded in 1814, by the "Oswestry Society for Bettering the Condition of the Poor," the President for that year being the Rev. Dr. Donne. In 1817 it was decided to establish one in conformity with an Act of Parliament that had recently been passed, and the Savings Bank, as we have it to-day, was erected. The first secretary was Mr. John Hughes (from the Town Clerk's Office) who in 1858 was succeeded by Mr. John Fox, father of the present assistant or deputy—Mr. Oswald Fox. Mr. Fox retired in 1875 and was succeeded by Mr. George Markey (son of Mr. Thomas Markey, Beatrice Street),

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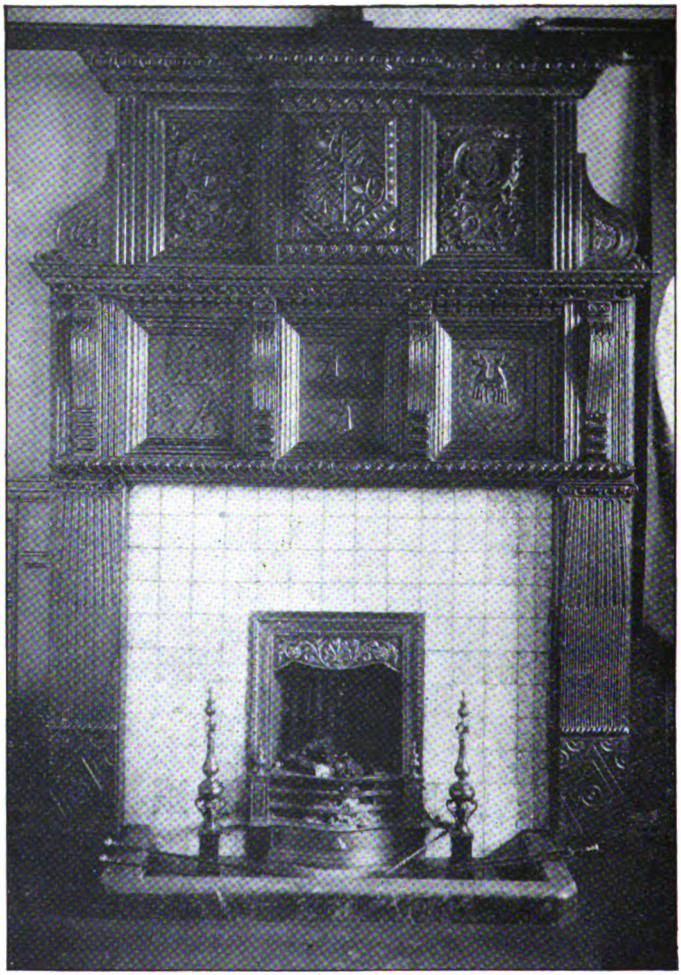

(Photo, Mr. Henry Jones).

CARVED OAK MANTEL in Council Chamber. (Page 299).

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Magistrates' Clerk, who died upon the premises in December, 1897, aged sixty-five, when Mr. Griffith Whitfield, Solicitor, was appointed.

Guildhall. After the lord of the manor had consented to the taking down of the town gates and to the surplus materials being used in the erection of a prison, the Town Council met in 1782 and " Ordered that the present Wool Hall be taken down and that the site thereof together with the materials be given up and appropriated for the erecting of a convenient prison and house of correction for the use of the said town," and " John Lloyd, gentleman," Mayor, 1769, was appointed treasurer of the fund raised by rates for the work. (This Mr. Lloyd died 30 Nov., 1797, aged 71, and was buried at Llansilin). In digging for the foundations of the present municipal buildings in 1892, a stone was discovered inscribed " John Price, Coroner, 1782," and which probably was the foundation stone of the building of 1782, also layers of trimmings from animal skins, proving the site to be that of the old Wool Hall before mentioned. The building erected, was of dressed stone with an effigy of King Oswald in the front, and consisted of rooms each side the front entrance on ground floor, for the use of the Town Clerk, and a spacious room over which had a separate entrance from the Pitcher Bank. In the basement were a couple of cells, or, as described by one writer " a coal hole," for the incarceration of unhappy culprits, but it used to be said that the head constable would " give them lodgings " in his own house, " if they were able to pay for them." The erection only occupied the centre of the site of the old Wool Hall and in 1786 it was

" Ordered that a building lease of ninety-nine years be granted to the last bidder, by auction, of the waste ground at each end of the new prison or house of correction, subject to repairs and other usual covenants."

The borough accounts for 1812–13 contain the following entry :—

" Received of William Jones, ironmonger, for two plots of ground at each end of prison £240."

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The plain brick building erected upon the plot nearest the Powis Hall, was in 1823 the residence of Mr. Henry Hughes, from the Town Clerk's Office, and who, when Mr. William Doughty was charged before a Magistrate for preaching on the Bailey Head, deposed that "he and his family were greatly annoyed and disturbed thereby." In after years the front portion became the office of the County Court, and the remainder a residence for the caretaker or bailiff. The house built at the other end, and which was approached by steps, was occupied by Mr. Hurdsman, Timber Hauler, whose wife kept a refreshment or boarding house.

In the borough accounts for 1812–13 there is a further entry:—"Sold Old Prison (*i.e.* the centre building) to Westleans for £800." The building however could only have been used by the English Wesleyan Methodists for a short time, for a new Chapel was erected by them in the Coney Green in 1813. It is said that during their occupation of this building for religious meetings a notice was placed at the entrance requesting all women "to leave their pattens by the door." These pattens, a sole of wood supported by an iron ring, were much used on Sundays about sixty years ago by old women, then wearing the fashionable cloth-top boots, to raise their feet above wet and muddy roads and pavements, and to end a clatter, were usually taken off in the porch of a church or meeting house, and brought inside, suspended from the outstretched forefinger of an outstretched hand.

In 1812, the National Society gave £200, and the town £100, towards building a schoolroom for the education of persons who cared to become teachers of schools in Wales, and also for the education of the children of the poor in the town and neighbourhood, but either through the lack of further subscriptions, or the inability to get a site, no building was erected. "1813. Wesleyan Meeting House (room over the Town Clerk's Office) at Oswestry bought for Boys' School" (Whittington Register), and in the following

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year this was fitted up for the boys, and a room in the Guildhall(now Powis Hall) for the girls, wherein a National School, based on what was termed " the Madras system of Dr. Bell " was founded. In 1815 there were upwards of one hundred names upon the books of the boys' school, the master, at the time, being Mr. John Morris. Mr. Morris, born in Willow Street in 1788, afterwards lived in an old house where now stands the Temperance Hotel at the top of Albion Hill. In 1817 he entered Rotherham College, where he was educated for the ministry. His last church was at Tattenhall where he remained nearly half-a-century. He died in 1883 in his ninety-sixth year. He was believed to be the last man living who remembered John Wesley. When Mr. Morris was three years old, Mr. Wesley preached in the Old Chapel, Arthur Street, and Mr. Morris well remembered his mother taking him there and holding him up that he might see the preacher.

The present National Schools in the Welsh Walls are a continuation of the Old School founded here.

In this same room Welsh services of the Church of England, discontinued in the Parish Church in 1814, were held on Sundays, and which were probably continued until 1821 when Trefonen Chapel was opened.

Soon after the Wesleyan Methodists were provided with the new chapel in Coney Green, the borough authorities appear to have repurchased the " Prison " or centre building, the sum paid therefor being £857 15s., towards which a contribution of £100 was made by the County upon conditions embodied in the following acknowledgement :—

" We, the Mayor, Coroner, Aldermen and principal members of the Corporation of the Town and Borough of Oswestry do hereby acknowledge that the Magistrates of the County of Salop have allowed the sum of £100 towards the repairs and alterations of the gaol of the said Town upon Condition that the Magistrates of the said County shall have the use of the Town Clerk's Office for the transaction of business as Magistrates of the said County, and that the Magistrates of the said County shall have the use of the Cells for the confinement of Prisoners until they shall be

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discharged or committed to the Shrewsbury Gaol. And we do hereby approve and agree to the condition above mentioned for which the said sum of £100 has been allowed by the said County.

"Given under our hands this 15th day of October, 1813. John Croxon, Mayor; Edward Edmunds, Coroner; James Donne, Thomas Skye, Aldermen; T. L. Jones, Charles Lloyd."

The prison repaired and altered in 1813 was evidently a part of the Municipal Buildings, for in 1814 "the Town Clerk's office, Gaoler's House, Prison, Schoolroom, and other offices" of brick stone or slate, adjoining each other, on the Bailey Head, were insured in the Salop Fire Office for £800. (Trans. VI. 301.)

The cells here again became out of repair, and in 1826 a new Gaol or Lock-up was erected upon ground whereon Christ Church now stands.

After the removal of the day school, the upper room was fitted up for magisterial business, which up to then had been conducted in the Old Town Hall (Powis Hall). The approach was upon the west side, and up against it was a residence for the chief officer of Police, the door lintel being inscribed:—"Police Establishment MDCCCXXX." The occupier from 1831 to 1854 was Superintendent Jacob Smith, an ex-soldier, who died in the latter year, aged 71. Other occupiers include Supt. Sykes, Supt. John Donald (died 1861), Sergeants Gough (who subsequently was raised to Supt.), William Duncan and Edward Morris.

Underneath the police station and approached from Arthur Street was the Fire Engine House, over the entrance to which was a stone inscribed "Engine House, erected by the Corporation of Oswestry, A.D. 1830. Peploe Cartwright, Esq., Mayor, Robert Morrall, Esq., Coroner." Previous to this the fire engines were without a settled "house," for in the Vestry Book of 1798 is an entry:—"It having been found inconvenient to get the engine out of the chancel for the late fire at the House of Industry, and at other times, and not very decent to keep it

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CARVED OAK TABLE from old Town Hall, with CORPORATION PLATE AND REGALIA.

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there, it was agreed by the inhabitants of the town and parish to erect a brick building near to the south-west porch in the churchyard."

The west front of the Guildhall was re-edified in 1877, and the following inscribed upon the principal gable :—" 1877. W. H. Spaull, Esq., Mayor."

The entire block was demolished in 1892 and a contract for the erection of new Municipal Buildings entered into with Mr. W. H. Thomas of Salop Road. The foundation stone is inscribed " Alfred Wynne Corrie, Esquire, Mayor of Oswestry, 29 July, 1892." The new building, the style of which may be described as 17th Century Renaissance freely treated, was designed by Mr. H. A. Cheers of Twickenham, whose Plans were selected by Mr. T. M. Lockwood of Chester, Consulting Architect to the Town Council. Certain modifications suggested by the Building Committee, were afterwards embodied therein, and the building, which cost about £11,000, was opened in November, 1893. The new Free Library, within, was opened during the mayoralty of Councillor George Perks, in the January following, the ceremony being performed by Dr. W. Walsham How, Bishop of Wakefield. The Council Chamber contains the carved oak mantel dated 1641, found upon the Three Tuns premises, an oak board bearing the arms of the Fitzalans (believed to have belonged to Oswestry Castle), and a painting of the royal arms, bearing date 1684 and letters " J. R.", found by Alderman Weaver amidst the lumber in the tower of St. Oswald's Church, and which he had properly cleaned and varnished. There are also the following paintings :—

" Alderman T. L. Longueville, Mayor, 1832, presented by him to the Town, 1883."

" Alderman Thomas Minshall, for 46 years Member of the Town Council and Mayor of Oswestry, 1851 and 1880. Presented to the Town Council, 1895."

" Alfred Wynne Corrie, Esq., D.L., J.P., Mayor of Oswestry, Nov., 1889, to Nov., 1893. A Freeman of the Borough."

" Alderman James Thomas Jones, Mayor of

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Oswestry, 1856–9. Presented to the Town, Dec., 1885."

" Joseph Parry Jones, Town Councillor, 1876–1883, Town Clerk, 1883–1901, Mayor, 1901–2."

The front of the building contains a carved replica of the seated figure of King Oswald, the old base relief, which formed a conspicuous feature in the front of the old Guildhall, being too dilapidated to be refixed, and is now preserved in the grounds of the Castle Bank.

Among the names of the Freemen of the Borough appears that of the infamous Judge Jeffreys (George Jeffreys, younger son of John Jeffreys of Acton near Wrexham, born 1648, Chief Justice of Chester, Flint, Denbigh, and Montgomery, created Baron Jeffreys of Wem, 1685) who was made " a Burgess of the sayd Towne and Borough " the 1st day of October, 1681. The account of Humphrey Ffoulkes, esq., Mayor of Oswestry in the year 1683, contains the following :—" Pd. for the treat expecting Sir George Jeffreys to Towne 00. 18. 06."

Up against the Castle Bank, and fronting the present entrance to Free Library, were a row of Cottages, in one of which lived Mr. and Mrs. William Mellor, China Dealers. These, together with some stabling adjoining, formerly rented by Mr. Hurdsman, Timber Hauler, were in 1871, acquired by the Corporation, demolished, and the present retaining wall erected.

The open space in front of the old Guildhall (Powis Hall), and known as the Bailey Head, is believed to have been the ballium or yard of the castle, but after the demolition of the latter, was used as a market place for corn. The parish register of 1597 contains an entry as to the price of corn in those days. It reads :—

" Octobris Mensis This yere and the two yeres that went before, corne was at a great price, and specialle this last somer. for in July last past, 1597, Oswestree bushell of wheate was solde there for twentie and three shillings, Rie at nineteen shillings and above, Barlie at sixteen shillings, and Otes at Tenne shillings. And had yt not then been for Dansk (Danzig)

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300 **POWIS HALL and BAILEY HEAD, 1855.** (Page 300).

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rie and Beanes this Reallme this yere hadd byn like to endure great skarcite for victualls."

Wheat at 23s. was a price equal to £11 10s. now, rye at 19s. to £9 10s., barley at 16s. to £8, and oats at 10s. to £5 of our money (*Price's History*, 1815)

The following market prices are recorded in the Whittington registers :—

	1779	1781	1783
	s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
Wheat (Oswestry Strike)	4 6	6 6	8 6
Barley	2 6	2 4	5 2
Mun Corn (Mixed Corn)	4 4	6 2	8 0
Oats	1 6	1 6	2 0
White Pease	6 0	5 8	0 0
Grey Pease	2 6	2 10	4 6
Beef per lb.	0 3	0 2½	0 3½
Mutton ,, ...	0 3	0 2½	0 3½
Veal ,, ...	0 3	0 3	0 3½
Pork ,, ...	0 3	0 2½	0 4½
Butter ,, ...	0 5	0 4½	0 6
Cheese ,, ...	0 2¼	0 2½	0 4

" 1812. Wheat sold in Oswestry at 32s. a measure." (*Table of Events.*)

In *Shropshire Word Book*, the Oswestry bushel of wheat, is stated to be 75 lbs., barley 38 quarts, and beans and peas, 60 lbs.

About 150 years ago, the open space, just mentioned, was stone paved, the portion fronting the Guildhall in larger divisions, for exhibiting grain, and upon these were pitched the bags of wheat brought into the town for sale. At the appointed time the town hall bell would be rang (" 1719. Aug. 5, Paid Mr. Owen Hughes for changing the Market bell at Oswestry, the old one being cracked, £4 : 11 : 10 " *Old Account*) as a signal that the lord of the manor, through his agents, was about to exercise his right to exact toll from the bags so pitched, after the rate of a pint per strike, and if any of the grain brought in remained unsold, the bag used to be marked by the collector of the toll and it could be brought to market on another market-day, free of toll. Whenever a load of barley, that had been sold by sample, came into the town, the collectors always went to the maltkilns and tolled it, and they

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did the same to loads of any other grain ; they had a brass dish, which held about a pint, by which they measured the toll, but generally the farmers, when they sent loads of grain, put a sufficient quantity to pay the toll in a separate bag, to prevent the others from being opened or interfered with. In those days the majority of householders purchased corn in the open market, it being afterwards called for by local millers and prepared into flour, under what was known as the "batch" system, and the town abounded with public bakehouses. When a customer came around on a market day, and a bargain struck, the sack was generally carried into one of the public houses near, in which, upon market days, a room was set apart for the measuring of the quantity desired, then both buyer and seller usually retired into another room for a settlement, over glasses of beer taken for the good of the house, or as some recompense for the use of the measuring room. Brisk business necessitated frequent visits to the measuring and tap rooms, so that by the end of the market the farmer would have had his fill, and, as a writer in *Bye Gones* says, "fortunate was he who possessed a horse that would carry beer and knew the way home when the "maister did'nt."

But the sore point with the farmers was that they had to pay for the privilege of offering their corn for sale in addition to being taxed at the gates or town-entrances. The opinion current was that as both tolls had originally been imposed to raise a fund for the reparation of the town wall, gates and streets, and the two first having been demolished, the lord of the manor was not then, at any rate, under any obligation to apply the moneys so raised, towards the maintenance of the streets, consequently outsiders began to dispute the right of collection, and evaded payment on every possible occasion. To simplify the collection of market tolls, it was customary for the Mayor, upon his election, to make personal application to the lord for leave to become tenant during his term of office, the rent according

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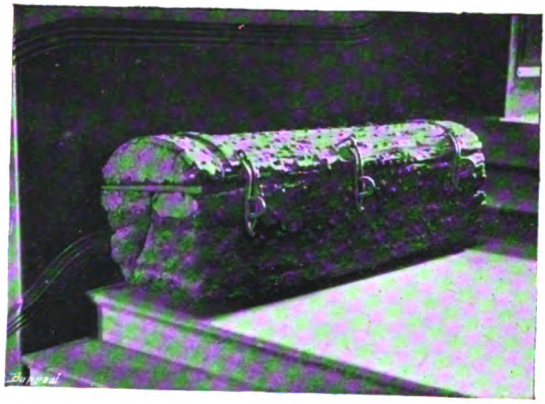

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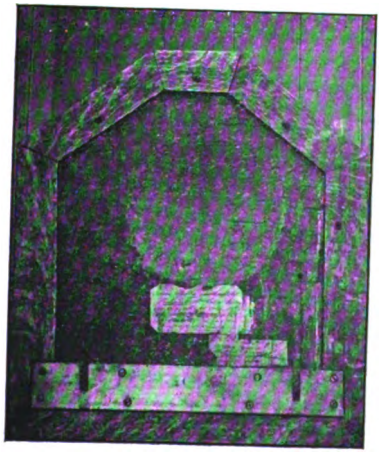
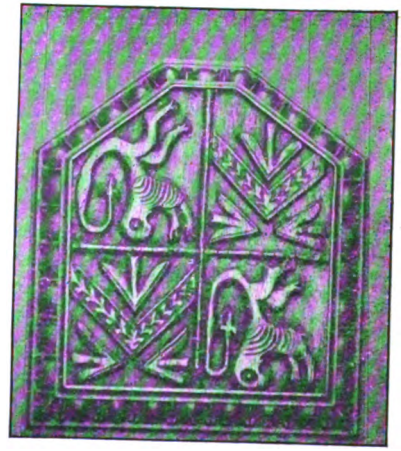
ANCIENT CHEST, Guildhall.
In this Chest the Municipal Documents were once stored.





(Photo, Mr. Henry Jones);

[OAK BOARD bearing the Fitzalan Arms.

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to accounts for 1770 and 1797 being £14 per annum. This arrangement however had little effect upon the agitators, for in the Rent Account of 1773 appears the following charge :—

"October. Mr. Nathaniel Jones, Mayor of Oswestry, costs expended in the defence of an Indictment preferred against him by one John Duckett, on pretence of an Assault and violence committed in taking of Toll on the Common Market place in that town, £10 : 10 : 0."

In 1811 a movement was set on foot to get rid of the gate and market tolls, by purchase, and according to a Corporation minute of 1813, an offer was made by the Devizees of the late Earl of Powis to sell for £800, the figures being arrived at by about twenty-five years purchase of the then rents, and the Town Council agreed to treat for the same as soon as subscriptions to the amount of £600 were raised' It is not upon record what steps were taken towards obtaining this sum, and up to 1815, when Price's *History of Oswestry* appeared, nothing of account could have been done, for it is stated therein that

"it is in contemplation to shake off this imposition in consequence of the decision of the Judges of the Courts of King's Bench and Exchequer in favour of the abolition of Tolls."

In that year the farmers of the district determined to try the question in a court of law, and a circular, of which the following is a copy, was freely distributed about the town and country :—

Oswestry Tolls. The Farmers and Public in general, who frequent the markets of the Town of Oswestry, are respectfully informed that the Committee for the Management of the Oswestry Toll case, will meet every Wednesday at the George and Unicorn Hotels, where a statement of the cases with the decisions of the Judges of the Courts of Exchequer and King's Bench in favour of the abolition of Tolls will be submitted to their consideration and attention.

"Tolls cannot be taken without a *good consideration* be alledged, the reason is because it is to deprive the subject of his common right and inheritance to pass through the King's Highway, which right of passage was before all prescription. Courts are exceedingly careful and jealous of these claims of right to levy money upon the subject, these tolls began and were established by the power of great men." 2nd Wilson 296."

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As *no* consideration is given by the Lord of the Manor of Oswestry for the tolls demanded by him, upon the authority of the above cited case, such demand cannot be supported, and as such Demands are highly prejudiced to the interests of the Town and Country, we have informed him that we are ready to meet him to try the merits of the question, in the proper place. By Order of the Committee, David Jameson, Secretary, July 12th, 1815.

Mr. Jameson, who espoused the cause of the farmers, and collected subscriptions towards defending any action, was a corn factor carrying on business in Bailey Street.

It was not, however, until the 4th December, 1818, that the matter was brought to a crisis, by a farmer from the neighbourhood of West Felton, named Edward Rogers, who, when a load of barley was brought up to the town gate and the collector was going to stop the horses for to obtain payment of toll, he cut them and drove on, and the collector followed, and took the back-chain and kept it. Rogers then proceeded to the Bailey Head, and when toll was demanded for the corn pitched, he told the collector that he had subscribed a guinea (for the purpose of trying the question) and had paid it to Mr. Jameson, to whom she (the collector) must go for it. The case came on for hearing before Mr. Justice Richardson, at the Shropshire Summer Assizes, 1819, and was reported at length in the *Salopian Journal* of 18th August, 1819. In opening the case, counsel for the plaintiff (Lord Clive) explained the nature of the tolls claimed, one of which he denominated a Toll Traverse, and the other a Toll Through. The former he defined as being claimed by persons having a right in the soil for permitting others to go over it, and this existing before any highway was made there, and the latter, as where there is a public highway, to the soil of which the owner has no claim, but in consideration of his doing something, such as repairing the road, etc., he was entitled to toll. After the production of documentary evidence, and hearing the testimony of several aged witnesses, counsel for the defence observed that the

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plaintiff, in order to be entitled to toll traverse, ought to have proved its existence prior to legal memory, viz., 1st Richard I. (1189) which he had not done, the earliest document produced being of the date of 1302 and there was no proof of the existence of any right prior to that period, but he should himself produce a grant of the tolls in question from Edward I. (1284) to the burgesses of Oswestry, for twenty years, and if the Tolls were then granted to them for that period, he did not see how the Earl of Arundel could die seized of them in 1302, He contended further that the sums stated to have been expended in the Stewards' accounts were too small and insignificant to be a consideration for toll through, and that it was manifest from the evidence that the Earls of Arundel had made encroachments and usurped powers to which they had legally no right whatever, and that it was upon such encroachments and usurpations alone that the plaintiff's right to the tolls was founded. An office copy of a Grant found among the Records of the Court of Chancery, in the Tower, dated 12th Edward I., was then put in. It was from that monarch to the burgesses of Oswestry to whom he granted certain tolls therein mentioned (set out herein under "Newgate" Church Street, and embracing almost every article brought for sale at that period) from the Feast of St. Thomas the Apostle, for twenty years, for the purpose of enclosing the town of Oswestry with walls. The Charter of Richard II., whereby he granted certain tolls, was also read, together with an Inquisitio post mortem, taken on the death of John, Earl of Arundel, 13th Henry VI., to show the Earl of Arundel was not then entitled to the Tolls, none being mentioned therein. Plaintiff's counsel, in his reply, argued that the Grant of Edward I,. was for a particular purpose, and probably the tolls therein mentioned had nothing to do with those belonging to the Earl of Arundel, and that the Charter of Richard II. was granted immediately after the attainder of Richard, Earl of Arundel, which attainder was reversed and his heirs restored in blood and to all the family possessions, by

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Act of Parliament 1st Henry IV. After a review by the judge, who left it to the jury to say whether the Tolls now taken were the same as those collected by the Earl of Arundel, and whether they had been collected from time immemorial, the jury, in a few minutes, found a verdict for the plaintiff (Lord of the Manor).

An individual entering the fray on behalf of others and coming out unsuccessful, is often left to his fate, and "friends become few," at any rate it was so with Rogers, a man of sixty years of age, with a wife and eight children dependent upon him, for immediately after the action, everything he possessed had to be realized towards meeting the taxed costs of the proceedings, which amounted to £639. Mr. Jameson, however remained faithful and did his utmost in soliciting subscriptions.

The tolls continued to be collected, and in the Estate Rental for 1834 appear thus :—

	£	s.	d.
Samuel Jones, Market tolls	5	0	0
James Lowther, Beatrice Gate ...	6	0	0
Humphrey Jones, Newgate ...	10	0	0
John Tomkies, Black Gate ...	6	0	0
Owen Lloyd, Willow Gate ...	6	0	0

but with the following note entered opposite

"Sold to the Corporation for £800 at Michaelmas, 1833."

How this was accomplished is not upon record, but according to a letter which appeared in a Shrewsbury paper of 1836, the collection of subscriptions for the purchase was taken in hand by a "patriotic townsman," and the transaction successfully carried through by one of the principal subscribers, Mr. T. L. Longueville, Solicitor.

The Corn Market Square was also a "place of attraction," for in the Records of the Borough Quarter Sessions is the following entry :—

"1795. Friday, 17th April. The King against Mary Thomas for Larceny. The prisoner having pleaded guilty It is ordered that she be imprisoned till between the hours of two and three in the afternoon of Wednesday next and that she be

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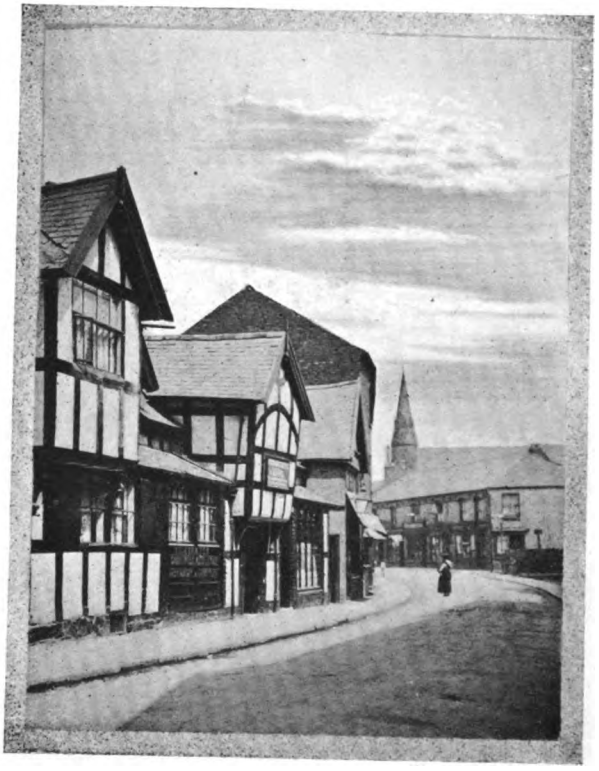

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FIGHTING COCKS INN, 1920.

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then publickly whipped in *the open Corn Market Place*, by the Beadle of the said town who shall give her thirty lashes upon her bare back and then be discharged."

"1830. May 5. One Ned Morris publicly whipped in Oswestry for robbing a man from Welshpool." (*Table of Events.*)

Here also stood the pillory, an instrument for punishment of lawbreakers. It consisted of a pillar, erected on a stand, and upon the top of the former were moveable boards with holes, through which the offender's head and hands (as far as the wrists) were

put, and after being locked, the prisoner would be left for a time exposed to public view and insult.

In the Books for 1767 there is an entry—"We present the Earl of Powis for not repairing the Pillory, If not done in one month, fined in £2."

The work was not carried out till 1776, and in the account for that year is charged a bill, paid to John Jones, Carpenter, for "Seeking out timber, making and putting up a new Pillory in ye Market

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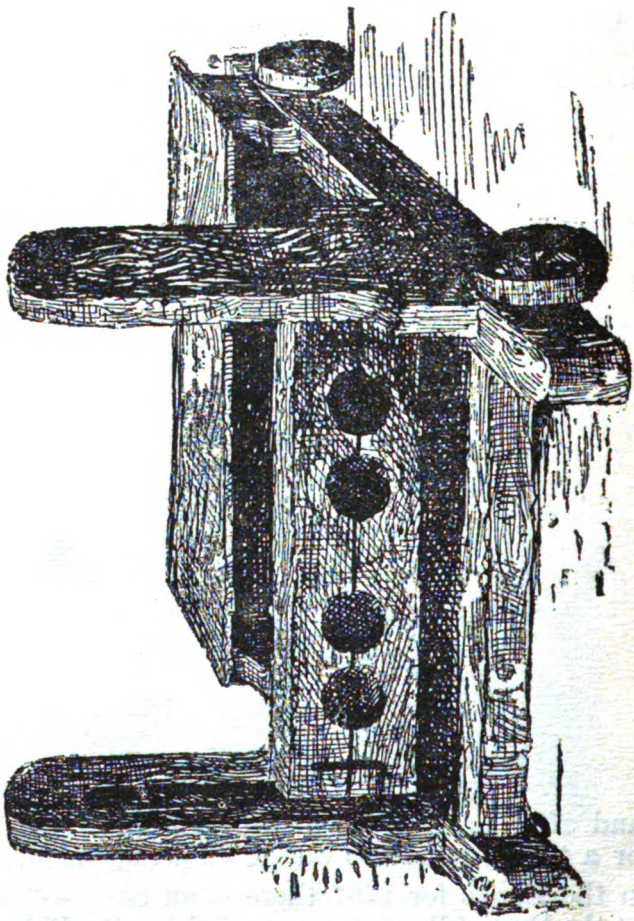
Place in Oswestry, by ye orders of Wm. Humphreys, Esq., £2 : 7 : 4." At the Quarter Sessions, 21 July, 1738, it was

"Ordered that Margaret Jones, convicted of felony, shall be publickly whipt by the Bellman of the said town, on next Wednesday between the hours of twelve and one of the clock,



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STOCKS.

in the afternoon of the same day, at the *publick Whipping Post or Pillory there*, giving her twelve lashes with the Common Whip used in such cases, till her body is bloody."

Another instrument in use here was the Scold's brank or bridle, applied in punishing scolding or

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nagging women and those guilty of slander. It consisted of a head-piece made of iron bands, which entirely encircled the head of the offender, and was so fixed that the tongue was held down by a triangular piece of iron. This is now preserved in the Town Clerk's Office.

The Stocks, an apparatus consisting of a frame of timber on wheels, with holes in which the ankles, and sometimes the ankles and wrists of an offender, fixed upon a low seat, were confined, was kept in a corner near the Red Lion Inn. It was used for the punishment of petty offenders, such as vagrants, drunkards, trespassers, and the like.

According to the Parish Registers it was customary in the seventeenth century, for Banns of Marriage to be published upon Market days here. The following are a few of the cases recorded :—

"1655. June. Daniell Edwards of Oswestry and Ann verch Robert of the same weare published in Markett and weare married the 18th day."

"1655. October. Wm. Jennings, gent., of Pentreshanell, and Mary verch Robert, wydowe, of Llangedwin, weare pt. published in Market the 12th day."

"1656. May. John Lewis of the Towne and Parish of Llanymlodwel and Margret verch John of the same parish weare published in Markett three severall Markett Dayes, the 1st publicacion the 30th day and had a certificate."

"1656. October. Tyder Jones and Margret Jones both of the Towne of Oswestry weare published in the s'd Towne 3 severall Market Days the 1st publicacion the 24th day and had a Certificate."

"1657. Aprill. John Edwards of Pentrewerne in the parish of Sellattin, gent., and Margarett Pugh of Merton in the parish of Whittington, wydowe, weare published in Oswestry three Markett days, the 1st publicacion the 20th day and had a certificate, and weare maried the 11th day of May, 1657, by William Cotton, Esq., Justice of the Peace as further apeareth by his certificate. Witness whereunto Edward Ward, John Gough, Maria Gough, and Jon Payne."

The Bailey Pump was fixed in 1776, the lord's rent account for that year having the following entry therein :—

"His Lordship's subscription towards sinking a well and setting in a pump on the Bailey Head in Oswestry £5.5.0," and

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in 1797 "Aug. 28, John Edwards repairing the Pump by Oswestry Town Hall £2.8.0."

Powis Hall. The earliest reference to this is in an Inquisition taken at "Ludlowe in Pentecost Week 18. H. VI. (1440) upon the death of Beatrix Countess of Arundel," as to the dower of the Countess which describes it as consisting (*interalia*) of "a third part of a garden next the Barbican and third part of *Court House*" (*Story of Oswestry Castle*). It appears again in the before-mentioned Survey of 1652, wherein it is set out as;

"All that messuage or *Court House* with the Appurtenances commonly called ye Town Hall, als Old Market House, and all that o'r messuage or tenement thereunto adjoining, commonly called the Newe Market House situate lyinge and beinge in ye Towne and Parish of Oswestrie in ye County of Salop, which said premises are in ye occupation of ye Bayliffes and Burgesses of ye Towne of Oswestrie, and are worth per ann. 20s."

The "Newe Market House" above-mentioned was the long narrow portion now first entered into from the Bailey Head, (the end wall adjoining Red Lion Inn, is a fair specimen of the stone work of that period) and comprised upon the ground floor, according to the Rent Roll of 1770,

Edward Lewis, a house under the Hall	...	3	10	0
Andrew Rogers	ditto	...	6	0	0
Gwen Humphreys	ditto	...		10	0

These dwellings were approached from the west end, where there are traces of openings having been built up, but principally from the rear. Above them, and upon the first floor, was a large chamber—the Guildhall of that period, extending the full length of the building, in which the Courts—leet and baron (annually on the Friday after the Feast of St. Michael), Quarter Sessions, Magisterial and Corporation Courts, Public Meetings and Entertainments, and (at one time) a girl's school, were held, the approach being from the front. The structure was maintained by the lord of the manor, and the following charge in his account, gives an idea of the cost of materials and labour in 1726 :—

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" Pd. for 750 slates to mend the Hall 3 9
Pd. the Bricklayer 2 2
Pd. the Slater 7 days 7 0
Pd. his man 5 days 4 2
Pd. for 100 of laths 1 10
Pd. John Ellis for 2½ days work and 8 yards of Boards for mending the Hall ... ... 9 0.'

The front was protected by a fence of posts and chains, and in 1783 the " Dale Co.," were paid £13 1s. 2d. for " iron frames to windows of Town Hall."

Standing, as it did, upon high ground and unobstructed, it was usual, on very special occasions to illuminate it, charging the cost in the lord's rental. The following are two of such charges :—

" 1789. Oct. 29. Griffith Roberts, Candles for illuminating the Town Hall, in Oswestry, on account of the King's restoration to health, 14s. 0d."

and

" Oct. 16th, 1798, William Jones, Candles for illuminating Oswestry Town Hall on the news of Admiral Rodney's Victory, 17s. 8d."

For some years the ground floor was occupied by Mr. James Jones, High Constable and local agent to the Earl of Powis. In 1799 he set sail in the Missionary ship " The Duff," under the auspices of the newly-formed London Missionary Society, but which ship was captured by the French. Eventually all the missionaries got back to England, when Mr. Jones secured the above appointments and occupied his spare time in selling china.

There appears to have been a public clock in this building from a very early period, for in the accounts of the Corporation for 1676 there is an item—" Pd. Mr. Joseph Rogers for Tendinge ye Clocke 00 : 10 : 00" and in 1680 " Pd. John Tomley Smith, towards setting up ye Clocke 01 : 00 : 00." 1719 " Pd. Jonathan Barnett for looking after ye Clocke 00 : 10 : 00," and in 1762 " March 19. Ordered that the Murringer pay one guinea yearly to a proper person for taking care of the Bayley Clock." In 1803 the lord of the manor paid about £20 for repairs and " a new dial." It was said that Mr. Charles Stanton, whose Company

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frequently performed in the Old Theatre, Lower Brook Street, presented a new clock later.

The Bailey Clock, however, hardly ever agreed with the other public clocks of the town, and Mr. Shirley Brooks, who as before stated was once a resident here, in his clever novel "The Gordian Knot," explains the discrepancy thus :—

"We had two public Clocks—one the Church clock, and the other a clock in the Town Hall. The consecrated works were confided to one clockmaker, and the secular wheels to another. Less than five minutes' walk took you from one building to the other, but there was always more than five minutes difference between the clocks. The reason was that the two artificers hated each other, and each kept his time at a hostile distance from that of the other. The clerical regulator would never recognise the existence of the other, and it was merely to annoy the poor old man that he was sometimes asked to explain the discrepancy, but the irreligious horologist not being appointed for life, was obliged to be at once more civil and more scientific, and boldly declared that he kept his clock five minutes a-head of the Church to allow for the difference of longitude."

At a special meeting of the Town Council held in May, 1838, to consider the question of Markets Accommodation, one of the subjects brought forward was the desirability of a Corn Exchange. The plan suggested was to convert the ground-floor of the Town Hall (Powis Hall) into a Corn Exchange suitable to all the wants of the farmers. To enable this to be carried out, it was decided to send a respectful application to the lord of the manor to dispose of the buiing to the Council. Shortly afterwards, the *Salopian Journal* gave circulation to a rumour that the Earl of Powis had in the most liberal manner, made an offer to the Council not only of the Town Hall but also of the old buildings in the rear, thereby clearing the ground for extensions whenever required, and upon the 5th of November of the following year (1839) the Right Hon. Edward Herbert, second Earl of Powis, with his son, The Right Hon. Edward James Herbert, who upon that day attained his majority, attended the town and duly made the presentation (*Bye Gones*). A few years later a large building was added to the old Guildhall, the room

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adjoining the Bailey Head being converted into a Corn Exchange, the addition in the rear into a Cheese and Butter Market, and the block henceforth named Powis Hall, after the late Earl of Powis; the expenditure being met out of a loan, which the Town Council, under a special Act of Parliament, entitled "The Oswestry Markets and Fairs Bill" (which received the Royal assent in 1848), were empowered to obtain for market improvements. Several extensions and alterations have since been made, to commemorate which there is an inscription upon the high clock turret—"John Thomas, Esq., Mayor, 1869," and on the north gable "T. P. Parry, Esq., Mayor, 1875."

The Horse Market, comprising 4526 square yards, was purchased for £279, and opened on 4th July, 1849, and the wall around it erected in 1861.

County Police Buildings, were partly erected by the Independents (in substitution for the old Lock-up on Pitcher Bank, the site of which was acquired for the erection of Christ Church), in 1871.

"The building substituted for the Gaol did not attempt to comply with the statutory requirements as to accommodation gaols, and was therefore not a gaol to which persons could be committed on being sentenced, but only a lock-up for the temporary detention of prisoners whose cases had not been disposed of. The Borough no longer possessed the gaol to which all its charters had entitled it, but it continued to be nominally the Prison Authority, and to be bound to maintain its own prisoners, until the Prisons Act of 1877 transferred the responsibility to the Secretary of State. The Oswestry Borough Police had been voluntarily transferred to the County in 1861, and the Local Government Act of 1888 made the County the Police Authority in the Borough, so that the County and not the Borough has to maintain the Lock-ups, and there no longer is or can be an Oswestry Borough Gaol." (*Oswestry Borough Gaol*, by Mr. R. Lloyd Kenyon.)

The block was completed by the County in 1902.

Brynycastell, formerly known as Belle Vue, stands upon the Cripple Bank, which was the site of the Barbican or outer gate of the castle, at which the halt and blind were usually relieved. These houses were erected about 1850, by Mr. George Morris, who

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for some years kept the King's Head Inn, Church Street. The occupiers include the Revs. F. Cashell and C. J. Binns (the latter in the early sixties kept a school for boys here), Messrs. George Morris, Robert Porter, Edward Woodall, W. H. Spaull and W. J. Roberts.

Powis Place was built in 1859 and 1862 by Mr. Thomas Edwards who died in 1880.

The path at the west of the latter, between and Brynycastell, is part of one that existed previous to the formation of Castle Street, and which led from the Powis Hall along the Castle field to the Oak Street Tannery.

Red Lion Inn. This name appears in the parish registers as early as 1668 in which year the landlord, Richard Griffiths, was buried. Other occupiers have been Messrs. Edward Davies (1741), Robert Lewis (1711), George Maddox (who paid the lord of the manor sixpence a year for a " mixen place " behind the Hall, 1756), Evan Jones (1804), William Crowden (1822), Thomas Davies (1852), George Jackson (1867), Thomas Jones (1868), John Parry (1873), Charles Dyke (1874) and Mrs. Elizabeth Jones.

It is also recorded in the register that there was a draw-well here in 1734, into which Samuel Hicks, a soldier, fell and was drowned.

The Welsh Congregationalists held religious services in a room over the kitchen from early in 1840 to 1843, in which year the new building in Chapel Street was opened. Two sermons were delivered every alternate Sunday, the salary of their pastor, the Rev. Robert Thomas, being the modest sum of 3s. 6d. per week.

The Eagles Inn, until about sixty years ago was known as the Castle Tavern. Among its occupiers have been Messrs. John Jones (1828), J. F. Williams, Edward Jones (1840), Thomas Jones (1845), Edward Dodd (1852), John Bayley (1874), William Conde (1876), and Mrs. Ellen Edwards.

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No. — (*Messrs. Edwards & Son*). The ground floor front has been altered. The occupier for many years was Mr. John Davies, Machinist, his successors being John Bromham, Grocer (1868), William Davies, China Dealer (1873) and Samuel Tomkins.

ALBION HILL—*continued.* NORTH SIDE.

No. 1, *Temperance Hotel,* has been entirely rebuilt. Formerly it was a low old-fashioned building, occupied in 1832 by Mr. Thomas Davies, Plumber, who afterwards removed to Beatrice Street. The place was rebuilt by Mr. John Rees, who occupied for about twenty-five years, being succeeded by Mr. J. F. Couch and (in 1874) Mr. George Matthews. The Young Men's Reading Room was here in 1853.

No. 3 (*Messrs. Edwards & Son*). The ground floor front of this has also been altered. It had a half-round window glazed with small panes, with a workshop in the basement. The occupier in 1822 was Mr. Thomas Williams, Shoemaker, and 1856, Mr. John Lewis, Hairdresser, the latter, being followed in 1864, by Mr. Edward George ,Shoemaker, a native of Llanbadarnfynydd, and father of Councillor G. A. George, who after several year's occupation removed into Beatrice Street.

No. 5 (*Mr. Jackson*) had a similar window to that at No. 3, and is one of the remaining shops of the town approached by steps. The occupier for a considerable period was Mrs. Ann Manley, Confectioner, who was followed by Mr. John Griffiths, Seedsman, whose son was verger at St. Oswald's Church. Subsequent tenants were the Singer Machine Co. and Mr. William George, Boot Dealer.

Nos. 9 *and* 7. The Feathers Inn (late) is frequently referred to in old registers and papers as "The Plume of Feathers." In a document belonging to the Phipps family, dated June, 1753, and relating to the marriage between John Lewis of Poole (Welsh-

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pool), Mercer, and Hannah Payne of Poole, Spinster, the place is described thus :—

"All that messuage . . . situate in the street called Leg Street (Albion Hill in those days was reckoned as a continuation of Leg Street) in Oswestry, commonly known by the name of the Plume of Feathers then or late in the tenure of William Smith."

The several occupiers have been Messrs. Charles Nichols (1722), Thomas Adams (1738), Edward Williams (1759), Edward Hayes (1763), William Price (1765), Richard Phipps (1790), Thomas Jones (1794), Joseph Evans (1828), Richard Prynallt (1832), Thomas Prynallt (1845), Edward Edwards (1854), Robert Pearce (1856), Richard Edwards and Mrs. Margaret Edwards, during whose tenure the licence was abolished. It is now a refreshment house. A Friendly Society was established here in 1839.

Nos. 11 *and* 13, erected in 1746 by

P.

R.E.

and in 1845 belonged to Mr. Thomas Roberts, Carrier. Mr. Roberts resided at No. 11, and subsequent occupiers have been Messrs, Thomas Jackson, John Jones, Hairdresser, John Lewis, Hairdresser (1866), Williamson & Burgess, Pork Butchers, (1873) Taylor & Son, Shoemakers, from Llwyd's Mansion (1875), Henry Wilson, Fishmonger (1878), William Oakley, Fishmonger, from Working Men's Hall (1880), and J. A. Lewis, Baker. No. 13, was during the first half of the last century occupied by Mrs. Ridge and her daughters, Provision Dealers. It was afterwards converted into a beerhouse, called the Forrester's Arms, which was held successively by Messrs. Thomas Roberts (1866), George Walker (1870), Richard Bather, (Mrs.) Mary Speake (1874), James Jones, and Price Hughes the licence soon afterwards being discontinued.

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BEATRICE STREET.

Beatrice Street. Harrison, who wrote in 1564, says "The third suburb or great street is called Beterech, wherein are 140 barns, standing in a row, belonging to the burgesses or citizens," and Leland the historian, who lived in the reign of Henry VIII., wrote that "the northern part of the town, or Beatrice Streete," at that period contained "many barns for corn and hay to the number of VII. score."

North side. No. 1 (Singer's Company) was erected in 1866 and opened in the provision business by Mr. Edward Manford, who named the establishment the "Golden Cannister." Mr. Manford was succeeded by Mr. Robert Morris, Grocer (from Mr. E. Wynne Thomas, The Cross), who afterwards removed to No. 52 in this street, being followed here by Messrs. Mansell & Sperring.

The Old or Upper Swan (to distinguish it from the New Swan in the same street) is another old half-timbered building that has been but little interfered with internally. The name appears in the parish register for 1631 as "Ye Swanne," John Edwards being then mentioned as the tenant.

Subsequent occupiers named are Messrs. Charles Lloyd (1656), John Lloyd (1669), Thomas Woolfe (1676), Edward Kyffin (1750), Andrew Griffiths (1762), Evan Jones (1792), Thomas Evans (1804), James Bolas (1828), James Chambers (1845), (Mrs.) Markey, and Philip Ashley (1868) who erected the brewery adjoining, and which in 1880 was taken over by Messrs .Robert Richards & Sons of Tynygraig Llangedwyn and afterwards of Greenfields.

Fighting Cocks Inn. This is another ancient house, the (once) projecting gables, low entrance porch with seats each side, large open fire-places within, low ceilings supported by massive axe-dressed beams, now quite black with age, and small heavy doors, renders it quite typical of the sixteenth century inn as often illustrated. The windows however have been modernised.

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The premises at the end of the seventeenth century, when the house was known as the Lower White Horse Inn, belonged to Messrs. Francis Lloyd of Crossmere and Edward Lloyd of Leaton, and who in 1713, sold it to Mr. George Edwards, the then occupier. In 1727 the latter gave the place to his brother, Mr. Thomas Edwards, of Cross Street, Mercer, by whom the name of the house was changed to the Fighting Cocks Inn. Mr. Edwards died in 1735 leaving the property to his grand-daughter, Sarah Hanmer, who became the wife of Mr. William Ford, of Cross Street, attorney-at-law (died 1759), and their son, William, also an attorney, sold it in 1771, to Mrs. Anne Griffiths of Oswestry, widow, the occupier at the time being widow Alice Jones. In 1828 the occupier was Mr. Robert Smith, when the property was acquired by Mr. William Davies of The Park, Whittington, Mr. John Phenna succeeding as owner and occupier, in 1836. Upon the death of the latter in 1844, Mr. Henry Kemp of Shrewsbury, became owner, and Mr. Joseph Huxley the tenant, subsequent owners being Messrs. Henry Peglar, Edward Asher Ashley (died 1880), James Moore Clements (died 1909), and Mr. Frederick Willlam Soames, and the occupiers, Messrs. Thomas Brayne (1854), George Beckett (1852), Thomas Nurse, who came from the Albion Inn (1858), Walter Russell (1862), John Jones (1865), Richard Bagley (1868), Thomas Hurdsman (1872), George Evans (1874), John Bowyer (1877), John Worrall (1878), William Felton (1879), Alfred Watkins (1880), Richard Humphreys (1881), John Camm (1882), and Seth Brown.

No. 25. Upon the front of this house is a stone inscribed :—

M.
J.G.
1789.

Plough Hotel, has been completely rebuilt. Among the occupiers in the last century, have been Messrs. John Jones (1812), Thomas Davies (1828),

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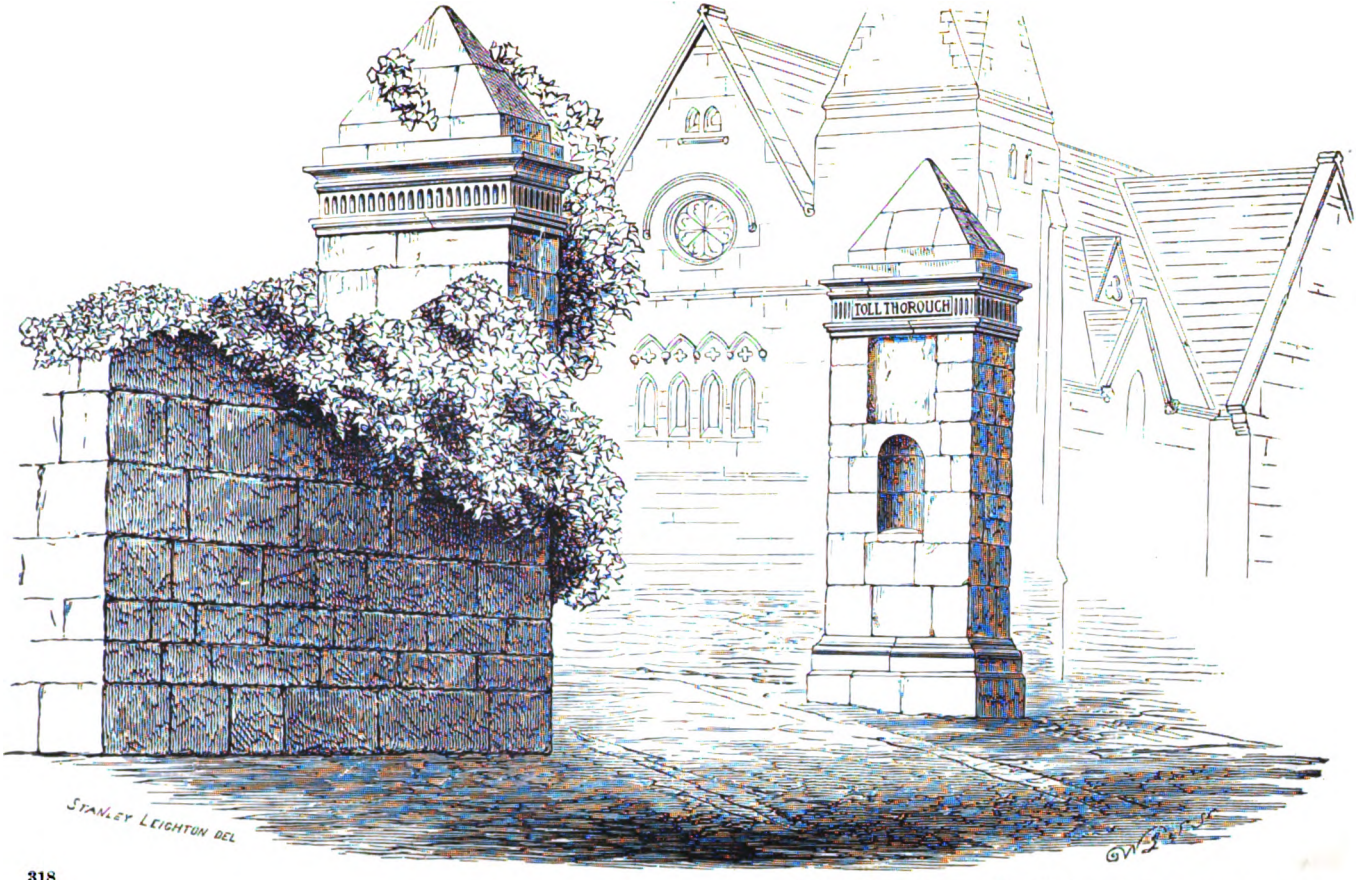

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PILLARS ERECTED ON SITE OF BEATRICE GATE.

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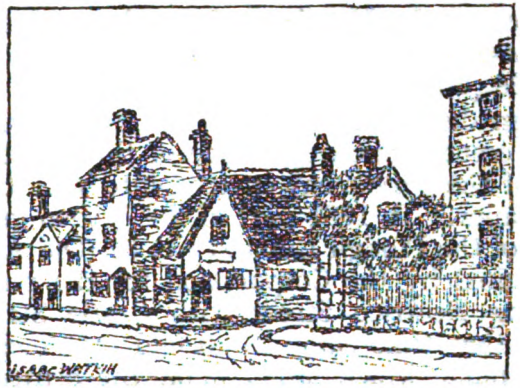
Samuel Roberts, Thomas Jones, Edward Ashley (1866), F. A. Turner (1868), (Mrs.) Elizabeth Turner Henry Jones and Charles Fowles.



THE PLOUGH HOTEL, BEATRICE STREET, 1870.

We have now reached the site of the fourth and last of the arched entrances—Beatrice Gate, about which John Davies wrote :—

"Some saye that the Easte-gate called Beatrice gate was built in Hen: the 2nd's time by Beatrix or Betard, a greate Lady, daughter of Simon Earle of Mountford and Eureux in Normandy, wief of Hugh Kiveliog the 5th Earl Palatine of Chester. This Lady travailinge that way fell there in labor and was deliev'ed of a sonne named Randloph Earle of Chester and Lincolne,

BEATRICE GATE.

whoe was surnamed Blandevill because hee was borne in Powis in a Town called Albu' Monaterin. But Others say that gate was built by another greate Lady named Beatrice, daughter of Kinge John of Portingale (Portugal) and married to Thomas Earle of Arundell and Surrey, 1405, in the p'sence of Hen: the 4th Kinge of England."

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The Register of 1672 has the following entry "Elin, an old woman yt liv'd on ye wall by Beatrice Gate, bur." This, like the other three entrances, was frequently presented, and one, in 1737, reads :— "We present the Murringer for a dangerous hole in the causeway on Betridge Gate. If not done in a week, 13s. 4d."

When demolished in 1782, a pillar marking the site was erected upon each side of the street in pursuance of the agreement entered into with the Lord of the Manor. In 1881 part of the garden ground at the rear of the Plough Inn and No. 57 (Old Armoury) was acquired by the Corporation for the purpose of connecting Beatrice Street with Castle Street (the latter at that time came to an end by Powis Place) and the pillar which stood upon the centre of the proposed opening was removed and fixed within the grounds of the Castle Bank.

Trinity School, near to, was erected in 1865, at a cost of £550, and enlarged in 1876.

No. 57, formerly called Bridge House (from its nearness to the hand-bridge crossing the stream coming from Cripplegate on its way to Bickerton's Pool) was in 1845 occupied by Mr. Isaac Holland, Builder, being succeeded by the Rev. David Crumpton and Mr. Henry Lewis, Painter. The premises were afterwards used as an Armoury by the Volunteers, the caretaker being Serg.-Major White.

The passage at the lower side of No. 57 leads to the Old Rope Walk, which for a number of years was worked by Mr. Thomas McKernin of Bailey Street. The Cottages Nos. 1 and 3, upon the left at entrance, were in 1890 converted out of the Meeting House of the Independent Methodists, as Mr. William Doughty, who had severed his connection with the Primitive Methodists (disagreeing with them upon the question of church government) and his followers were called. In 1872 the building was purchased by the Welsh Baptists, who worshipped therein until the erection, in 1889, of their present chapel in Castle Street.

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No. 49 (*Howells*) was the shop and residence of Mrs. Pearce, where more than one generation of the children of the town had their supplies of toffee.

No. 51, 53 *and* 55. The site of these was formerly a builder's yard, occupied successively by Messrs. Thomas Jones and Thomas James. No. 53, after being erected, was for some time a beerhouse called the Volunteer Inn, and occupied by Messrs. Job Parry (1870), John Chidlow (1872), Thomas Clayton (1874), George Edmunds and Mrs. Elizabeth Southall.

No. 55 was opened in 1865 by Mr. John Davies, grocer, from Glasgow House, and called by him Liverpool House. In 1881 he removed to No. 62 taking with him the name given to these premises, and was succeeded by his brother Mr. William Davies, draper, who only stayed a short time, when the place was again opened in the grocery business and named Albert House, by the present occupier, Mr. R. S. Parry, Mayor, 1915 and 1916.

The patch of ground north of Albert House (No. 20 on map) belonged to Mr. Richard Bickerton in 1795, the opening from Beatrice being at that time much wider, and had a pool of water in its centre.

In the Register for 1671, is an entry :—

"March 19. Sara Kynaston, widow, Cross Street, was buried in Nathaniel Edwards' Croft without Beatrice Gate."

The croft of 1¾ acres (21 on map) upon the eastern side of Albert Road and called "Pistyll Croft" belonged to Mr. John Mytton in 1795. About forty years ago the portion adjoining Beatrice Street was covered by a residence and stables which had become almost too dilapidated for occupation. These in 1845 were held by Mr. Joshua Evans, coal merchant, and later by Mrs. Elizabeth Foulkes, and her son Mr. Edward Foulkes, who with his breeding horses had removed here from the Red Cow Inn, Cross Street. The Criterion Café is a very recent erection.

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Nos. 63 *and* 65. Until the erection of these houses, the ground fronting the Smithy and pent-house was clear and open to the street. The Smithy in 1845 was held by Mr. William Jones, and afterwards by Mr. Thomas Morgan.

The site of Nos. 67 to 73 and for some distance in the rear, belonged to Mr. Robert Lloyd of Swan Hill, the portion fronting the street being covered by small houses, in one of which resided Mr. Thomas Mason, weaver, father of Mr. R. H. Mason, Mayor, 1899. Mr. Mason (a native of Caersws) was counted one of the few Radicals possessing sufficient courage to take an active part on the side of Mr. Cotes in the memorable election of 1832. About sixty years ago the property was purchased by Mr. Edward Evans, builder, who demolished the small houses, erected Nos. 69 and 71 in line with the adjoining buildings and formed the opening now between them. No. 69 was for some years occupied by the Co-Operative Society before their removal to Cheapside. No. 71 was the Working Men's Hall which for a few years had a beer licence attached to it, during which period the occupiers were Messrs. Edward Davies (1870), William Oakley (1872), Edward Evans (1880), and Thomas Jones (1881).

Lower or New Swan Inn, was formerly a malt-house held by Mr. Jackson, being converted into a public-house about seventy years ago. Some of the occupiers since then have been Messrs. Luke Edwards, who died in 1852, and was buried in the Old Churchyard, John Roberts, Abraham Breeden and Thomas Evans.

The Malthouses, near, were worked during the first half of last century by Mr. Richard Brayne and his widow, Mrs. Elizabeth Brayne, who occupied the house adjoining. Mrs. Brayne died in 1865, about which time they were taken over by Messrs. William and John Thomas, malsters.

In 1795, the field, No. 23 on map, and belonging to Mr. Williams, Dissenting Minister, came up to the street.

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The Railway Hotel, was enlarged some years ago by the taking in of an old dwellinghouse, approached by several steps, that adjoined the Malthouse, at which time the whole was rebuilt. Some of the occupiers have been Messrs. Charles Thaxter, (Mrs.) — Haworth (1853), (Mrs.) Mary Lewis (1856), (Miss) E. Jones (1862), John Roberts, John Evans (1875), Arthur Hughes (1878), Ann Dixon (1880), and G. H. Casewell (1881).

Union Place. About 1700 the land here, then known as Cae Royle, belonged to Dr. Hugh Price, who, under his will charged it with the payment of Three pounds per annum, for 1000 years, to the Dissenters of Oswestry, " towards encouraging of a prayerfull minister in Oswestry aforesaid." At an Inquiry held in November, 1898, it was represented to the Charity Commissioners that up to his death, Mr. John Jones, Chairman of the City Bank, and former owner of Union Place, had paid the charge regularly to the deacons of Christ Church, but after his death, the payment had not been continued.

Union Place, as it stands to-day, was built upon the property by the person who had the care of the Holyhead road in this district at the time of the union with Ireland. The following have been some of the occupiers :—Mrs. Baugh, Mrs. Povey, Messrs. William Lacon (1828), Francis Lucas, Gideon Graves (1845), Dr. Joseph Large, who in 1862 left for No. 12, Salop Road, and was succeeded by Dr. J. Sides Davies, Mr. Charles Tomkinson, Rev. Samuel Allinson, Mr. Edward Parry Jones (father of Mrs. Williams, Pool Quay Vicarage) who left for Oaklands, Chirk, Mrs. Frank Roberts, Messrs. Thomas Pugh, corn dealer, and James Morris, manure merchant.

No. 97. A stone upon the front of this house is inscribed " S. G., 1806." The place for many years was the residence of Mr. William Williams (Gwilym Oswallt), coal merchant, and father of Mr. John Williams, Oakhurst Road. He was founder of the Welsh Baptist cause in the town, died in April, 1889, and was interred at Zion Baptist Chapel, Cefnmawr.

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Up to the advent of the railway, No. 99 was the last house upon the northern side of this street, Llwyn Terrace, erected by Mr. Isaac Holland, being one of the earliest block of houses that marked the new enterprise and which soon afterwards was followed by the formation of Gate Street and the erection of houses there and Llwyn Road, principally by Mr. Charles Llewelyn, the land known as Croft by the Llwyn, No. 25 on map, in 1795, forming part of the Aston Estate of the Rev. J. R. Lloyd. and then in the occupation of Mr. John Lovett.

The house now next to Llwyn Road is the Cambrian Inn, generally referred to as "Ketcham's Inn" or "Catch'em's Corner," which for many years was kept by Mr. Richard Bennion, and is mentioned in an interesting article, entitled "Don't Animals get Drunk?" that appeared in *Longman's Magazine* for November, 1896.

The writer after relating several cases in the affirmative, says:

"Probably the most curious case of tippling on record, however, is furnished by an old gander, long since defunct, which used to be reckoned a 'character' at Oswestry. This gander's incurable propensity for the cup that cheers and inebriates was only equalled by his inordinate vanity. He knew market day as well as the wisest old Welsh-woman who ever brought her butter there, and on that day would be seen waddling among the streets with all the assurance of an old habitué. But, 'Ketch'am's Corner' (Catch'em) was the favourite resort of this disreputable bird, for there was a public house planted at the junction of the roads—hence the significant name, and in this house Mr. Gander was always a welcome visitor. He was an unfailing source of amusement to the customers, who used to pour quite an alarming quantity of beer down his throat, and then turn him out. Thereupon he would waddle away to a neighbouring shop, and solemnly admire himself before the low plate-glass window, and when vanity was satisfied, he would stagger unsteadily homewards, often tumbling about in the most grotesque fashion to the delight of the most frivolous portion of the community."

BEATRICE STREET—SOUTH SIDE.

Nos. 8 *and* 10 (*Mr. Francis*), previous to being rebuilt in 1878 comprised two low and dark shop

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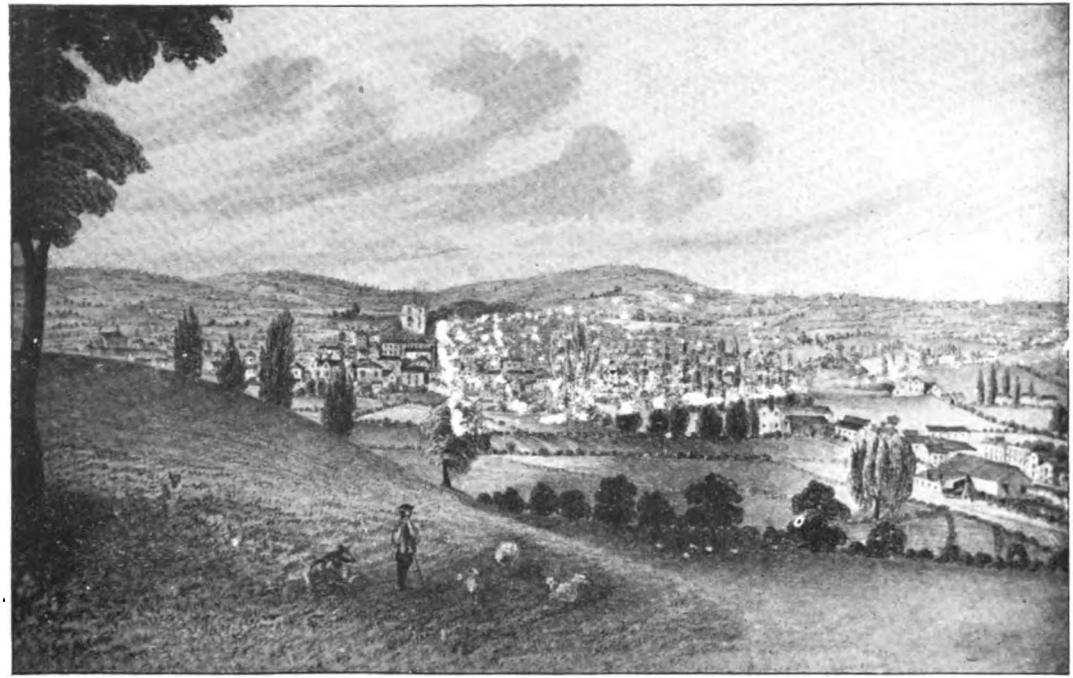

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OSWESTRY, from Shelf Bank, 1858. (Page 325).

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buildings, with the ground floor below the level of the street. The first had been a public-house called "The Rainbow," which was last kept by Mr. Richard Batten. It was afterwards occupied by Mr. Maurice Williams, confectioner, who died in 1873. The other was occupied by Mr. William Lowther, furniture broker, and later by Mr. Robert Jones, hairdresser.

No. 12 (*Mr. W. Roberts*). A stone upon the front gives the date of erection by "J. M." as 1744. The occupier for a number of years was Mr. Isaac Hughes, a working shoemaker and poet. In 1838 Mr. Hughes published a book entitled "Poems on Various Subjects," and which was printed for the author by Mr. Samuel Roberts, Bailey Head. About that time he competed for a national prize for a poem on "Sunday" and was awarded second place. He afterwards published a volume of verses entitled "Home and other Poems." He died in 1881, aged 72 years.

No. 16, *Star Shop*, has been partly rebuilt. For the greater part of the last century it was a currier's shop, first kept by Mr. David Edwards, whose widow in 1854 transferred the business to her son, Mr. Edward Edwards. He retired in 1877 and was succeeded by Mr. David Reynolds Hughes.

No. 18 has been refronted. Formerly it was the business place of Mr. John Windsor, agricultural machinist, who died in 1882. The ground floors of several of the adjoining houses are still very much below the level of the street.

Albert Place. These dwellings, in 1801, belonged to Mr. John Holbrooke, architect, and were occupied by Messrs. Jeremiah Meredith, James Lowther and Humphrey Meredith. About four years afterwards the block was acquired by Mr. John Menlove, of Whittington, who in 1838, was succeeded by Mr. Thomas Davies, Plumber, from Albion Hill. In the year following, Mr. Davies erected another house for his own occupation, and wherein he died in 1883, at the age of eighty-eight. Mr. Davies, born at Bangor-is-coed in 1794, came to Oswestry into the

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employ of Mr. Robert Roberts, plumber, Lower Brook Street, in 1811. He was the last of the politicians of 1832 who fought the election that followed the passing of the Reform Bill. He lived at that time on Albion Hill, in a house where now stands the Temperance Hotel (No. 1), and just then the building opposite (Mr. Birch) was in the course of erection for Mr. Samuel Roberts, printer. The Candidates at that election were Mr. Gore, Tory, and Mr. Cotes, Liberal. Mr. Davies, although a Non-conformist, held that Mr. Ormsby Gore, as a neighbour and friend, should be supported, rather than Mr. Cotes, who had no interest in the town and trade of Oswestry. His fellow-dissenters, of whom Mr. Samuel Roberts was one, had wider political views, and fought hard for the liberal candidate, and so profusely were the orange decorations displayed on the house of Mr. Davies, and the blue on the partially erected premises of Mr. Roberts, opposite, that the places for many years afterwards, were commonly called "Gore's" and "Cotes'" corners. A squib was also issued by the satirist of the day, in which, after a censure of the leading Liberals of the town, comes the following passage :—

"13. Now Thomas (Davies) departed from the ways of the Evil Spirits, and fled to the Camp of the Goreites, where he had often been nourished and comforted, and his Tribe exclaimed against him with uplifted voice, saying, Thou, a Leader of the People, oughtest to be broken in pieces as *glass*, for thy transgressions must be as hard as *lead*.

"14. Then Thomas (Davies) said unto them, Men and Brethren, why *gore* me with unwise sayings, or cut my soul as with a *diamond*? Verily I will not be *squared* to your ways nor moulded by any of you like a lump of *putty*." (*Bye-Gones.*)

Mr. Davies was a village preacher, and a most active worker in this way for the good of his fellow men, but it is as a temperance reformer and the establisher of the first temperance house in Oswestry that he will be remembered the longest. He took a prominent part in the first battle of Teetotalism in the town, which was held in the large room over the town clerk's office in the old Guildhall, soon after the

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election of 1832. The meeting ended in riot and confusion, but meeting after meeting followed and Mr. Davies stood the brunt of them.

There was one, in particular, which is thus narrated in *Bye Gones*,

" In one held at the Old Chapel, with Mr. Longueville, I think, in the chair, a speaker said ' teetotalism was commended in every page of the Bible,' whereupon the inevitable ' Minshull the Printer,' who occupied a seat in a side aisle, shouted out ' That's a lie.' Up jumped Mr. Davies (who was on the other side of the building) and without more ado climbed over the sides of the intervening pews, and collared the objector to turn him out. Which was the stronger I forget, but the next day Minshull had Davies before the magistrates for an assault, and before the week was out, published a ballad on ' The Reverunt Tummy Davies's fruitless striving over the body of poor Minshull the Printer,' stating at the foot of it that copies were two-pence each, the profits to be devoted to cleaning the Chapel after future Teetotal meetings ! "

We now come to a block of shops called " Cheapside," erected by Mr. Charles Llewelyn, upon the site of two old houses and workshops, the first of which was occupied by Mr. Thomas Bowyer, cooper, who died in 1874, and the other by Mrs. Hughes, a milk dealer. The ground, No. 26 on map, reaching from Beatrice Street to the Coney Green Field, was half-an-acre in extent, called a Croft by Beatrice Gate, and in 1795, belonged to Mrs. Williams. Besides the buildings mentioned, there were the workshops of Mr. Windsor, machinist, and Mr. James Holland, builder, the remainder of the ground being planted with fruit trees.

The adjoining land Nos. 27 and 28 on map, belonged to Mr. Richard Bickerton, and were upon hand in 1795. Some years previously, there was a snuff mill, upon the site of the Wesleyan Chapel, worked by Mr. William Bickerton, who utilized the overflow water from the Swan Hill Fishpond, that entered Beatrice Street just opposite, and then into a dam formed on the south side, which for several generations after the demolition of the mill, was called Bickerton's Pool. At some proceedings in 1767, Mr. Thomas Bickerton, grocer, was presented

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" for continuing an encroachment by the Beatrice Pool by taking (from the lord's property) about fifteen yards in length and four in breadth, and adding the same to the said pool 0. 4s. 0."

After leaving Bickerton's Pool, the water crossed the mud pools in (now) Oswald Road, and joined the stream from the English Walls on its way towards Plasffynnon and Shrewsbury Road.

When excavating for the foundations of the Wesleyan Chapel, a piece of metal, believed to be a portion of the old mill wheel, was brought to the surface. Mr. William Bickerton was assessed to tax in respect of the " Snuff Mill ground " as late as 1814. The property afterwards passed to Mr. John Edwards, surgeon, and the ground, about half-an-acre in extent, formed into a timber yard which in 1831 was occupied by Mr. Evan Davies. The next occupier was Mr. Isaac Holland (grandfather of Mr. T. Holland Crowther, Deputy Registrar of County Court), builder and timber merchant, until 1866, when the ground was sold by auction for £1970, Mr. Holland, a short time previously, having had it offered to him for £800. In the following year Mr. Holland removed to his new premises near Llwyn Terrace.

Wesleyan Chapel. This building, designed by Mr. W. H. Spaull and erected by Mr. John Ward, of Whittington, is of the Early English style adapted to modern requirements. The ground floor comprises a nave with transepts arranged for future extension, an apse at back of pulpit, and seating accommodation for 440 adults. In the basement, which is on the level of the ground at the back, are the minister's vestry, class-room, a large schoolroom. and other conveniences. The principal feature in the elevation is a light tower and spire over the entrance, 83 feet high to the top of the vane. The memorial stone was laid on the 9th June, 1870, the ground-floor opened for public worship on the 28th February, 1871, and the rooms in the basement on the 21st September following, the total cost thereof being

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upwards of £3000. The excavations proved expensive, for it was found that the south wall ran in the course of the old town Moat, making it necessary to go to the depth of 28 feet below the ground floor line to reach a firm foundation.

The ground upon the western side of the latter building was subsequently taken to form King Street, connecting Beatrice Street with Oswald Road, when the pillar marking the site of Beatrice gate was removed and placed near the front of the Chapel, a few yards distant from its original site, but only for a short time, both pillars afterwards being fixed inside the Castle grounds. The surplus land in King Street was sold for building purposes, the occupier of the principal structure, Mr. John P. Sheather, was Mayor in 1907.

Plots, Nos. 29 and 30 on map, were in 1795 the property of Mrs. Williams, and fronting the street, upon site of No. 50, was an ancient looking cottage, with the ground floor about half-a-yard below level of street, occupied in 1845 by Mr. William Richards and subsequently by Mr. George Evans, a cork cutter, and attached to it was a public weighing machine, much used in former days by farmers and others bringing produce into the town.

A little way south of the weighing machine, and down what is now Orchard Street, is the remains of another very old residence, known as Eden Cottage, which at one time was the only house between this point of Beatrice Street and Middleton Road. The occupier in 1795 was Mr. Richard Bickerton, then followed the owner, and, after her death Mr. Isaac Holland went into occupation. His daughter, Mrs. Crowther, now an octogenarian, just remembers the removal, and that the field, now the site of Cambrian Station, had then upon it a crop of barley. The house has since been merged into other buildings, but some of its windows appear in No. 18, Orchard Street,

Nos. 52 a*nd* 54 have been rebuilt. Two cottages formerly occupied the site, in one of which resided the

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father of the late Mr. John Eaton, Town Pavier. After being rebuilt, No. 52 was occupied successively by Messrs. Thomas James and Robert Morris, the latter removing thither from the Golden Cannister. Mr. Richard Roberts, butcher, has been the only occupier of No. 54.

Nos. 56, 58 *and* 60, were for nearly a century in the occupation of the Vaughan family, cabinet makers, etc. Before the erection of these shops the ground was clear and fronted " Mixon Hall " (mixon, a sire-name common in the south of England), a residence that stood upon the site of what is now Caxton House. Mrs. Elizabeth Williams, owner in 1703, by her will charged the land with the payment of £2 per annum for distribution in sums of six pence and a shilling, to the poor of the town, on Palm Sunday. The property has since been divided and the charge is now borne in equal shares by the owners of Caxton House and the Caxton Printing Works respectively. Some of the stained glass from the old Hall is fixed in the present building, erected in 1840, by Mr. James Vaughan, for his own occupation, and which he named Claremont House. Soon after taking possession, a singular character known as Captain Bramwell, came to reside in a house at the top of the passage leading into Beatrice Street, and one day, Mr. Vaughan and his family were startled by the report of a gun and the breaking of glass, and upon going upstairs found that a window had been smashed by a bullet which had pierced a door between two rooms and lodged above a bed in which lay one of his children. It transpired that Mrs. Bramwell having died that day, her husband fired over her dead body as a mark of honour to her memory. The bullet passed through an open window in his house, overlooking the timber yard. Captain Bramwell was eventually taken to an Asylum. The bullet mark is still in the door and was recently shown to the writer by the present occupier, Mr. T. M. Cottam. Mr. Vaughan was succeeded by Mr. Robert Jones, until 1858, when Mr. J. Askew Roberts, who had removed his printing plant from the premises

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on the Bailey Head to the building (now Caxton Works) adjoining, came in, and changed the name to Caxton House. Mr. Roberts remained until 1870 when he removed to his new residence at Croeswylan, and was succeeded by Mr. John Cottam, dentist, who came in from No. 2, Upper Brook Street.

No. 62, *Liverpool House*, was in 1874 occupied by Mr. Thomas Brayne, who in 1881 was succeeded by Mr. John Davies from No. 55.

No. 64, was the residence of Mr. John Pierce for many years a town postman, when only two were employed.

The Crown Inn. The recent occupiers have been Messrs. Richard Evans (1856), Thomas Hurdsman (1874), George Rogers (1875), Sampson Bowyer (1876), J. Hayes (1877), James Edwards (1880), Thomas Sharples (1881), John Humphreys and Herbert Evans.

Adjoining the last named premises was a strip of land (No. 31 on map), comprising (in 1795) 1a. 1r. 30 p., and named Wycherley's Croft, after Richard Wycherley who, by his Will dated 1624, gave as follows :—

"Item. I give devise and bequeathe all that my Barne and yard with the closse or parcell of land thereunto belonging and situate lying and being in Oswestrie in a street there called Betteridge Street unto the Bayliffes and Burgesses of the said Towne of Oswestrie and their successors for and to the use of the poore of Oswestrie afforsaid 12d. every Sabbath day in bread and the overplus of the rent to place some poore boy to some guild or craft, being now sett to Gabriel Eds yongr for ffifftie shillings per Ann."

When acquired by Wycherley from Roger William it went by the name of "Croft Hugh Llwyd." According to Cathrall's *History*, it was held in 1855 by Mr. R. Brayne at a rent of £7 a year.

At a public Inquiry into the Charities of the town, in November, 1898, it was stated that the land had been realized, and the income then consisted of a rent charge of £11 5s. paid by the Cambrian Railways Company and a dividend on £2290 Consols producing £62 19s. 6d. yearly, and that a scheme

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(approved) provided for the laying out of the money in apprenticeship premiums, with a contribution to Higher Education. The Drill Hall stands upon a portion of this land.

Great Western Railway Station. The main line, promoted under the title of the Shrewsbury, Oswestry and Chester Junction Railway, was sanctioned in 1845 and completed for traffic in 1848, the novelty at the time being so great that many Oswestrians walked as far as Gobowen, especially on Sundays, to watch the trains rushing past. The branch from Gobowen to Oswestry was opened on 23rd December, 1848 (*Shrewsbury Chronicle*), a temporary wooden structure, to serve the purposes of a station, being fixed on land, part of "Cooper's Croft" (No. 32 on Map), which in 1795 belonged to the Presbyterians of Salop. The stationmaster and goods collector was Mr. Edwin Jones.

According to a Time Table of 1850, a fast or select (1st and 2nd class only) train starting from Oswestry at 12.7 noon reached Shrewsbury 1.10, Wolverhampton 2.44, Birmingham 3.30, and London 8.30 p.m., and a like down train leaving Oswestry at 7.25 a.m., arrived at Chester 8.50, Liverpool 9.45 and Manchester 12.15.

In 1866 a small building was substituted for the "hut" station, and the present erected about twenty years afterwards.

Adjoining the latter ground was another Croft (No. 33 on Map), belongong to Mr. J. C. Kinchant, and which is now occupied by the Coal Offices and Yards.

Next came a field (No. 34 on Map) owned by Mr. R. G. Owen, that extended from the site of the Coal Offices to opposite the Cambrian Inn. It was at this point that a turnpike gate was fixed across the Holyhead road, with a Collector's house adjoining.

No. 35 on Map, comprising 8 a. 2 r. 0 p., was known as "Scybor Ward's land," that in 1795 belonged to the Rev. George Warrington, and upon

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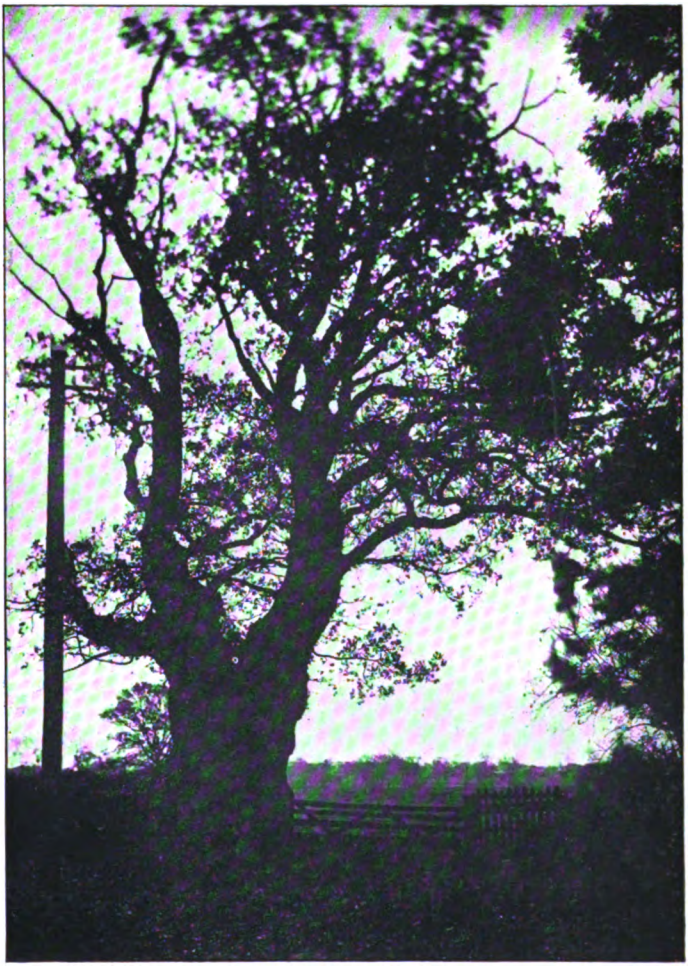

332 **An old Oak standing on side of Holyhead Road, near Carregiwyd, believed to have served as a "gallow's tree."** (Page 338).

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which the Cambrian Works and approaches have been erected. The first engineering works of the Company were of a temporary character, at Welshpool, but in 1865-6 the buildings here were put up under the superintendence of Mr. George Owen, C.E., from designs furnished to Mr. Thomas Savin by Mr. John Robinson of Manchester. The buildings, exclusive of the running sheds, covered an area of about four acres, and under the superintendence of Mr. Alexander Walker, the then Locomotive Engineer, the Company was capable of supplying all the necessary plant " from a foot-warmer to a steam engine." The chimney ,octagon in shape, and 150 feet high, is a prominent object in the landscape for miles around. A large number of men have been employed, the nine hours system came into operation with them in January, 1872, continuing until January, 1919, when the working hours were reduced to a 47-hours week. With the latter arrangement, however, came a great change and loss to the householders and toilers of the town and surrounding district, extending nearly to Llangynog in the one direction, for the six o'clock " hooter " which had for upwards of fifty years so faithfully regulated the commencement of their domestic duties, altered its time to eight o'clock.

The last cottage stood on the right, beyond the turnpike gate, upon a Croft (No. 36 on Map) belonging to the Rev. George Warrington and in 1795 was occupied by Mr. William Price.

INDUSTRIES.

Having completed the survey of the town, it is interesting to note some of the trades carried on by its inhabitants from 1558 down to the middle of last century, and which appear frequently in the Parish registers, viz. :—

Canwr (bleacher), bell-founder, palmantwr (pavier), bladurwr (scythe-maker), pobydd and pobyddes (baker m. and f.), card-maker, dyer,

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currier, freizer, flax-dresser, go'. (gof-smith), felt-maker, glover, hatter, mercer, gwydd (weaver), miller, miner, nailer, straw-bonnet maker, salt-man, parchment-maker, peruke maker, presser, saer (carpenter), tiler, soap-maker, fuller, priddwr (brick-maker), shearman (cloth-worker), stay-maker, and corvisor (cord-wainer or shoe-maker).

For the defence of the rights secured to them by the various municipal charters, the members of each trade—tanners, glovers, butchers, corvisors, bakers, hucksters, ale-sellers, etc., formed themselves into a Company, whose duty it was to guard the monopolies of the brotherhood, and to signalize the invasion of any foreigner.

In the Corporation Records for 1689 is an entry :

" There are severall Companies, societies or fraternities of and belonging to the severall and respective trades, misteries and manufactures occupied worked and wrought within the said burrow of in and to which companies or fraternities noe person or persons can consist bee admitted or incorporated as free men to trade within the said Burrow except such y't have served an apprenticeshipp or Decree w't'in the said Burrow to one or more of the free men thereof for the term of seaven years or be otherwise qualified according to the rights and priviledges of the said burrow."

There exists the " Statutes, Articles, and Ordinances of ye Fraternity of Weavers of ye Town and Burrow of Oswestree granted to them by John son of Alin Lord of Arundell, Anno D'm. 1580." And in the Mayor's account for 1676 is entered :—

" Recd. of the Companie of the Cloth-Workers for the renewinge of their Compos'on, 06.00.00

" Recd. of the Companie of Taylors for the like, 05.00.00."

and 1683 :—

" From the Company of Butchers, 06.00.00."

In 1689 there is entered a notice of an intended action, which commences thus :—

" The Companie and fraternitie of Tanners have bin from time to time intruded upon in our trade by one William Rogers a foreigner to the said Companie who usually bies hides and skins within the said burrow to the breaking and infringing of our liberties rights and priviledges." Etc.

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These Guilds usually held their annual meetings and feasts on Corpus Christi Day (Thursday after Trinity Sunday). The universal procedure was for the members to meet in the hall, elect their officers for the year and afterwards march in procession through the principal streets (each fraternity having a chief or king, music, with flags and other Devices emblematical of its calling), to the parish church where special mass or service was performed and blessings were invoked on the craft and the town during the coming year.

The "Corvisor" which covered practically every branch of the leather workers trade, appears most frequently in the registers. This trade, as early as 1587, was in such a prosperous state as to be able to form a guild of its own, numbering no less than sixty-six masters and freemen, whose names are still preserved.

Under the rules (preserved) all members were pledged not only to look after the interests of their guild but also to "maintain and increase" the interests of the town, and before being admitted every man had to take his "Corporall oathe," as follows :—

"You shall be true to the Kynge's maggestye the young prynce, and Successors. You shall be dutiful and obedient unto the baylyffes of this towne, and unto the wardens of this Company for the tyme beinge. You shall bear scot and lot within the company and paye your quartorelye and all other fynes and fee summonses that shall be ymposed uppon you according to rules by the twoe wardens and foure sittors accordynge to your power and obyllety. You shall observe and keepe all such articles that are layd downe within this booke or within any composstystion which shall hereafter be granted unto our company that shall be agreeable unto the lawes of the land and to the aunciente customs used in this towne tyme out of mynde. All this you shall observe and keepe as neerlye as ye can. Soe helpe yo God and the contents of this booke."

Before admission as a freeman, an apprenticeship of seven years must have been served to a member of the Guild, and a proper qualification as a burgess was a very usual condition. Also a guild did not accept, even then, any candidate but as laid

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down in the book, both the man and his work had to be approved by a majority of the guild.

" Here you shall note that neither fforiner nor towne apprentice be admitted masters without he giving warning thereof and note the Wardens with the rest of the Company upon the Sunday next before the Feast of Christmas, making his sute for admittance, and according to his skill, good behaviour, and the Company's good lyking of him, he to be admitted thereafter, on that day twelve month, and to sett up between Christmas and Candlemas next ensueing."

As to the term " fforiner," it applied to anyone outside the borough, the object being to permit no outsider to share the privileges of the guild unless he paid heavily. Sometimes they were called " aliens," and " stranger born," a frequent name for them also being " uplanders."

There was often trouble with uplanders and aliens. They were allowed to sell on town or fair days but a high toll was exacted. In 1597 the Guild of Oswestry Weavers specially excluded any apprentice from being admitted who was either French, Fleming, or Scot, under a forfeit of 100 shillings. The Corvisors were also the same, and the artist had introduced in the initial letter of this rule a serpent sucking the life blood from a human figure. Then no master was allowed to keep more than three apprentices, this was afterwards reduced to two, none were admitted under fourteen years of age and their indentures were to be duly registered. The rules further provided

" That none shall work, nor suffer if he knowes thereof, any of his journeymen or apprentices within his house or shoppe to make any new kind of wares upon no Sunday in the morning, under payne of forfeiting 5d."

" That no master or common brother shall keep but only one shoppe within the said towne of Oswestrie, nor make any wares belonging to the said occupation out of the said liberties the same to retayle upon payne of 40s."

One David Williams, in 1652, was fined 29s. 6d. for keeping two shops. Another rule had reference to working by candlelight, while other rules were,

" That no master shall take any of his brethren's customers until the time the said customers have paid and contented unto him all such debts being behind, upon payne or forfeit 2s."

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" No master shall hire any of his loomes or other implements of his occupation to any man not admittted a freeman, forfeit 2s."

" If any speak with license and will not keep silence when they are commanded by ye said wardens, they to forfeit and pay every time 12d."

" That if any saith his fellow lieth in the presence of the wardens at any Council meeting or taketh part against his brethren in their rights, shall be commanded to prison, and there remain without bayle until he be reconciled to the wardens and brethren," and " Any apprentice running away from his master and not serving his full term of seven years shall be treated as a stranger and fforiner to the discouragement of all others."

Litigation between brothers was forbidden, and disputes had to be submitted first to the officers of the Guild, who formed a kind of Court of Arbitration, and their consent was necessary before litigation began.

In 1741 the term *Shoemakers* was officially used for the first time instead of Corvisors, and their last appearance in public was on the 14th July, 1821, when with the Tailors, Weavers, and Breeches-makers, they were given a place of honour in the procession to church upon the occasion of the Coronation of George IV. (*Lecture* by Councillor Thos. Poole, in 1902.)

A Society of Tradesmen was established in the Boar's Head Hotel in 1806, and their Rules were registered at the Shropshire Quarter Sessions in July of that year.

Nail-making was also a flourishing trade up to about sixty years ago, a large number of hands finding employment upon the premises of Mr. John Minshall, in Bailey Street, and Mr. Lacon in Leg Street.

But the most important business was that of the sale of Welsh Cloth, which is believed to have been carried on in the town for upwards of two hundred years. In Blakeway's account of " *The Woollen Trade of Oswestry in Ancient Times*," preserved in the Shrewsbury Library, it is stated that " In the sixteenth century and perhaps earlier, Oswestry was

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the great emporium for Welsh Cloth, a privilege it was well entitled to from its vicinity to those Districts of Wales in which that important branch of Commerce was manufactured, at a period when the English trader could not, with any degree of safety, trust himself in the principality." It appears that Oswestry possessed the monopoly, and it must have been exceedingly interesting to see the Drapers of Shrewsbury travelling along the Holyhead Road to the town every Monday morning. It was however a highly dangerous journey, for upon both sides of the road was a good deal of waste ground, upon which robbers, that then infested the district, could easily hide, in spite of the gibbets or gallows erected at frequent intervals (one being below Carreglwyd and another near Nescliff) for dealing in the most summary manner with any that happened to be caught. An old MS. relates that

'On Monday, Dec. 5th, 1575, the Drapers of Shrewsbury had like to have been robbed if they had not been previously warned."

Among some of the records belonging to the Drapers Company at Shrewsbury, are the following:

"25 Elth anno 1583. Ordered that no Draper set out for Oswestry on Mondays before six o'clock in the morning on forfeiture of 6s. 8d. and that they wear their weapons all the way and go in company, and not to go over the Welsh Bridge before the bell toll six."

By this arrangement the Merchants were enabled to travel in greater safety, and it may also have formed some check upon those who might be tempted to get early to market to forestall others.

In 1585 the plague raged in the town and it is recorded that

"The Welsh Cloth market was kept at the Knockyn, nine miles from Salop and thyder the drapers of Shrewsburie every Monday did resort to buy their cloth, till the 2nd of August when the plague ceased and the Market returned to Oswestry."

A toll of one half-penny was paid for every piece of cloth bought at this place.

'44 Elth, 1602. Agreed of good will to give the minister at St. Alkmund, 20s. for his pains in saying morning prayers in St. Alkmund's Church, and 6s. 8d. to the Clerk for lights."

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"1614. Ordered 6s. 8d. per ann. to the Clerk of St. Alkmund's for ringing bell to prayers on Monday mornings at six o clock."

William Jones, Esq. (of the Chilton family), left to the Drapers Company, £1 6s. 8d., to be annually paid to the Vicar of St. Alkmund's for reading prayers on Monday mornings before the Drapers set out for Oswestry Market, the money to be paid out of the profits arising from his lordship of Wigmore. (Phillips.) Such a service was intended to evince a sense of manly piety and trust in the Divine protection.

In Heylin's "*Microscosm*" (1627) it is written:

'The Merchandise (Woollen Cloathes, Cottons, etc.) from all parts of Wales are brought up into Oswestrie (which is the farthest towne in all Shropshire) as unto a common emporie. For hither on Mondays (which are the market dayes) come from Shrewsburie the Cloath Merchants and Drapers there dwelling, buy these commodities, carry them home and from thence disperse them unto all places and parts of the kingdom."

And Davies the Recorder (1635) says, in reference to these markets:—

"Whereof great store was bought and sould in the towne every weeke and I was credibly informed by many that knewe it above £1000 sterlinge in ready monie was paid and left in the towne every Monday through the yeare, and sometimes farr more upon speciall faires or occa'ns for that one com'oditie."

In 1582 an attempt was made to remove the business from Oswestry

"to the greate decay of that towne and Shrewsburie, yf Sir Thomas Bromley beeing lord Chanselor, had notte, by his greate wisdom, opened the same to the Queene's Majestie, for which godly deede thaye of the s'd townes aer contyneually bounde to praye dayle."

Lord Chancellor Bromley was a Shropshire man, and possessor, by purchase from the Earl of Arundel, of the Castle and Lordship of Shrawardine. He was therefore personally interested in the prosperity of the County, and by his influence at Court, was enabled to promote it.

In the next reign, again, when the sceptre of England was swayed by a feebler hand, the Shrewsbury Drapers, weary of their weekly journeys to

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Oswestry, determined to transfer the market to their own town from that in which Queen Elizabeth had established it. But this attempt proved in the first instance abortive. The lordship of Oswestry was enjoyed at this time by Thomas Howard, Earl of Suffolk, to whom it had been presented. He was in great favour with James, in whose Court he held the Office of Lord Chamberlain, and to whom he had recently recommended himself, by his vigilance and promptitude in the discovery of the Gunpowder Plot.

Possessed of the highest notions of the privileges of the peerage and jealous of the infringement of his rights by the tradesmen of Shrewsbury, he issued his mandate to them by one of their own body—Arthur Kinaston, to desist from such attempt in future. Their answer is recorded in their own books, and is entitled:

"The Copy of a letter sent by the Company to the Earle of Suffolk, Lord Chamberlain of his Majesties house-houlde ye 24 June, 1609.

"Right Honerabell, your letter bearing date the second of this June, 1609, by the hands of Mr. Kinaston wee have receaved. Wherein ytt appeareth yo'r Lordship was informed that wee the Societie of Drapers wentt aboute by underate and menesses to withdrawe your markette of Welshe Clothe from your towne of Oswester." Etc.

And so they proceed to exculpate themselves from the charges in those phrases of submission which were in that day the established usage of inferiors in their addresses to those above them. This was their tone during the plentitude of the Earl's power, and which, five years after the date of their letter, received a great increase by his appointment to the exalted position of Lord High Treasurer of England. During this time we may be sure the market for Welsh frieze and cottons continued where, according to Heylin, it "was originally fixed at Oswestry." But, in 1618, Suffolk was dismissed from office, and fined, and his influence having gone, the "covetous and ambitious Company of (Shrewsbury) Drapers" (as Oswestrians called them), in 1621, made an order upon their Books, "That they

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will not buy Cloth at Oswestry or elsewhere than in Salop." (*Blakeway's Account.*)

After obtaining the necessary leave, the Welsh were forced to take their goods to Shrewsbury. Thereupon the Bailiffs, Burgesses and inhabitants of Oswestry, and the Clothiers of North Wales, supported by the Justices and gentlemen of the Counties of Merioneth, Denbigh and Montgomery, petitioned the King in Council, and on the plea that the Oswestry trade was being ruined by the Drapers of Shrewsbury since the late grant of freedom for the sale of Welsh Cloths, prayed that the markets may be re-established in Oswestry, or the cause referred to the Lord President of Wales and Chief Justice of Chester. The matter was duly considered in Council, and afterwards referred, with the result that upon the 26 June, 1622, orders were given for the full re-establishment of the markets at Oswestry, " it having been ascertained that " such was " the general desire of the Country."

The foregoing does not appear to have had but little effect upon the Shrewsbury Drapers, for it appears from the *Calendar of State Papers*, that in November following, the Clothiers of Oswestry and North Wales, again petitioned " that in spite of the Order in Council, confirmed by the President and Chief Justice of the Marches of Wales, for re-settling the Market at Oswestry, the Drapers of Shrewsbury still try to draw all the Trade thither and declare they will buy there in spite of Orders to the contrary. Request exemplary punishment of the chief offenders."

After the Shrewsbury Drapers had been heard in reply, the following Order was issued from Whitehall on 21 Decr., 1622 :

" On Complaint of the Town of Shrewsbury of the great injury they have sustained by the Order of June 26 restricting the Market of Welsh Cloth and Cottons to Oswestry—That the trade be allowed to be free notwithstanding that Order."

The trade flourished for a time at Shrewsbury, eventually the Welsh Manufacturers compelled the English buyers to follow them into their own Country.

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Previous to the construction of Canals and Railways, goods were brought into the town by coach or wagon, the carriers, in 1828, in addition to the coaches, etc., already mentioned, being Messrs. Davies & Minnet, from Beatrice Street to Chester, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, Mr. Robert Fox from Bailey Street to Chester every Monday and Thursday, and Messrs. Richard Fox and John Thomas to Shrewsbury every Monday and Thursday, at rates fixed by the Justices. The latter were empowered at the Easter Quarter Sessions yearly, to assess and fix the prices of all land carriage of goods brought within their jurisdiction, and no carrier was to take above the prices so set under a penalty of £25 for each offence. In 1815, the rates, which included delivery, as fixed by the Oswestry Justices were, per coach or such like carriage, for all goods and parcels (save money and jewellery) exceeding 12 lbs. in weight, 1½d. per cwt. per mile, parcels of 12 lbs. or under, 1s. 10½d. from London (176 miles) and so in proportion for any greater or less distance. By wagon, ¾d. per cwt. per mile, London parcels of 12 lbs. or under 1s. 8d. To the foregoing rates, one third to be added on all parcels brought into the town or liberties, out of Cardiganshire.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In 1809

" An Act for paving, cleansing, lighting, Watching and otherwise improving the streets and other public passages and places in the Town of Oswestry in the County of Salop,"

was obtained.

Previous to the passing of this Act, persons committing nuisances could only be dealt with through the Borough Sessions where they had to be " presented." The following are selected from the many cases recorded :—

12 June, 1747. (When it was the common practice of burgesses to allow their pigs to ramble) Ordered

" That John Jones the Bellman of this Town Do take up all

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Swine that are so found rambling in the Streets and Do them impound and not release them to the Owners without their paying 2d. a head for their release."

May, 1764.

"We present Richard Jones, tanner, for leaving a dead horse unburied in the road leading from his tan-pits to 'Cae Tomley' (the site of Smithfield) being a publick nuisance, if not removed in two days, fined in three shillings and foure pence."

"We present Abraham Phillips for leaving a mixen of Muck upon the road leading to Llanvilling, if not removed in two days, fine him five shillings."

"We present Richard Owen, butcher, for slaughtering upon the open street, and fine him six pence."

The earliest record of any arrangement for the sweeping of the streets is in 1792, when, at a meeting of the Town Council

"It is resolved and fully agreed that in order to keep the several streets of the said Town clean and free from Filth and Dirt, the Mayor of the said Town for the time being ,shall yearly at Michaelmas Quarter Sessions, appoint, retain and employ two scavengers who shall twice in every week at least, sweep all Filth, Dirt and Rubbish to be found in any of the said streets and carry away the same to such place or places as shall from time to time be appointed by the Mayor of the said Town for the time being, and that the money to be produced by sale of the Manure which shall be obtained by such scavengers, shall in the first place be applied in paying their Salaries, which shall from Time to Time be fixed by the said Mayor, and the Remainder thereof be applied to the use and Benefit of the Inhabitants of the said Town in such manner as the Magistrates of the said Town assembled at Michaelmas Quarter Sessions yearly shall direct." Etc.

The Act of 1809 provided

"That all and every person or persons inhabiting within the said Town and Borough, shall sweep and clean or cause to be swept and cleaned the footway or pavement before their respective houses, buildings and walls, once at least in every week, or oftener if thereto required by the said Commissioners, or their Surveyor or Surveyors for the time being, Upon pain of forfeiting any sum not exceeding Twenty shillings for every neglect therein."

The causeways or sidepaths, as well as the streets of the town were formerly paved with irregular sized stones, generally referred to as "petrified kidneys," and although power was obtained in 1809, it was

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not until July, 1852, that flags were introduced, Upper Brook Street (from Messrs. Longueville & Co.'s Offices), Church Street from Sun Corner, and the upper part of Beatrice Street being the first to be treated in this manner, a portion of the expense being defrayed by the town and the remainder by public subscription, Mr. Edward Williams, Senr., who then resided at Lloran House, contributing £50.

The Commissioners appointed to carry out the provisions of the Act of 1809 were all resident in the town or district, and it is to that body, known as the Town Commissioners, we are indebted for all improvements carried out up to 1862. In that year they met for the last time and formally transferred their business to the Town Council, which under an Act just then passed became the Local Board of Health.

In 1865 powers were sought for and obtained to construct Sewerage and Water Works. The engineers were Messrs. Gotto & Beesley, of London, and the contractor, Mr. F. C. Bugbeard, also of London, the work being completed in about twelve months' time at a total cost of £17,000.

The outlet for the sewers was formed at the back of the Gallows-tree toll-gate in Salop Road, the overflow therefrom taking its course towards Maesbury along the line of Watt's Dyke.

The source of the water supply is the Penygwely brook on Tyucha Farm, Rhiwlas, distant about five miles from the town, the level of the dam constructed there being 100 feet above Cyrnybwch, over which the pipes conveying the water were laid. Two reservoirs were made at the Brickfields, near the Mount, 280 feet above The Cross, and estimated to store 3,000,000 gallons, to meet the maximum requirements (on the constant principle) of the town then calculated to be 150,000 gallons daily.

On the 16th July, 1866, the Mayor (Mr. George Owen) with the members of the Corporation, were entertained to luncheon by the engineers at Penygwely, when the Mayor, at two o'clock, turned on

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the water, and upon a length of hose being attached to one of the hydrants in the Cross (700 feet below the level of the source) in the evening of the same day, and the Mayor again turning the tap, the water came forth with great force, the pressure being calculated at 120 lbs. per square inch.

The same ceremony was performed in front of the Queen's Hotel and at the Mayor's residence, Park Issa.

Several exceptionally dry seasons followed the opening which severely tested the scheme, and so low was the supply at one time that the satirist of the day, describing the Mayor's visit to the source, sang :—

"He had to go first on his knees and then on his belly
For to *see* the famous waters of Penygwely."

Since then the Corporation have acquired the farm, which comprises the larger portion of the water-shed, and in November, 1889, the Mayor (Alderman John Thomas) accompanied by the Members of the Town Council and the Borough Officials, visited the site for the purpose of laying the foundation stone of a reservoir of about ten acres in extent, estimated to hold 25,000,000 gallons of water, and in November, 1893, the Earl of Powis formally turned on the tap to start the flow of water therefrom into the town.

In July, 1918, the number of business establishments, of every size and description, in the town, was 417, and of the proprietors, fifty-seven only were natives, twenty-one thereof representing a second, ten a third, and six a fourth generation of trade or business people born in the town.

The following figures show the comparative gross estimated Rental of the town :—

	£
1845	11,215
1855	16,604
1874 (including the Liberties) ...	35,406
1918 do. ...	76,815

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POPULATION.

1801	...	...	2627		
1811	...	...	3479		
1821	...	...	3910	Inhabited Houses	844
1831	...	...	4478	Inhabited Houses	885
1841	...	...	4566		
1851	...	...	4817		
1861	...	...	5414		
1871	...	...	7306		
1881	...	...	7851	Inhabited Houses	1590
1901	...	...	9579		
1911	...	...	9991		
1919	...	...	—	Dwellinghouses	2420

OLD OSWESTRY.

This ancient fortification, situate about half-a-mile north of the town, and in the parish of Selattyn, was formerly known by the names of Hen Ddinas (Old City) and Caer Ogyrfan (the Fort of Ogyrfan, or it may be translated Caer-y-Gyrddfan—the Camp of the Field of Conflict), but is now more familiarly recognised under the modern title of Old Oswestry, in contradistinction to the new Oswestry named after Oswald.

The following are some of the old references to the place :—

" The Towne or Castelle of Hen Dinas standeth upon a rounde hillet aboute a mile cumpace. There be iii greate diches in the bottom of the hillet cumpasing it, and in the toppe of the hille now grow great trees of Oke. The cummune people say there was a city withyn those diches." Leland's *Itenerary*. 1540.

" About halfe a mile northward of Oswestrie is ye remaines of an auncient Fortress almost round, ye plane at ye toppe contayning about 20 acres of ground. On some sydes it hath 5 Trenches (large and deepe) one above another and in other places 4 where ye ascent is so steepe yt it needed no more. It hath two entrances, one towards ye north. Neere ye S. Entrance below ye second row of Trenches is a spring and 5 or 6 severall vast oblong squares or Cesternes cut in ye same ranke on either side of ye said Entrance for holding of water. The Trenches

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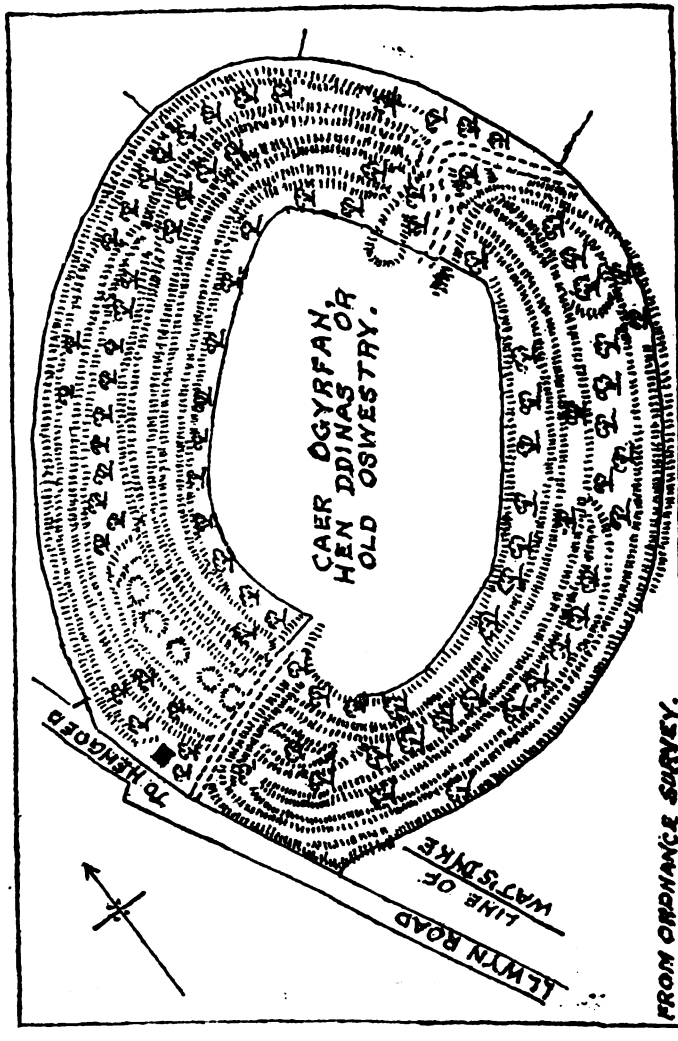
as well as ye crest of ye Fort are grown full of Oke trees. The whole fortifications is most stupendious and worthy of strict and curious observacion. It is called by ye Welsh Llyn (Llwyn) yr hen Dinas or ye Wood of ye Old Towne." (Dugdale.)



"Hen Dinas is an oblong parallelogram. The base of the hill occupies at least 50 acres, it gradually tapers towards the plane of site, which is perfectly flat, whose area comprehends upwards of fifteen

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acres. We pass through 5 lines of circumvallation before we gain the top. Two of these entirely circle the hill, and others do so partially, being designed for the peculiar defence of the entrance on the western side which is less precipitous than the other. The first vallum is drawn round the base of the hill for a considerable distance. The second has its relief about 50 ft. above the level of the road below. The parapet is 10 ft. across and has a counterscarp of 6 ft., and the adjoining interior fosse 12 ft. The third vallum is 6 ft. wide across the parapet, having a relief of 10 ft. above the ditches on either side. There are indistinct and uncertain indications of another vallum. The exterior or fourth vallum is about 50 ft. above the third, its counterscarp is 10 ft. and its width 6 ft. The fosse is about 40 ft. wide, the fifth vallum is much on the same scale, having a slight interior slope towards the top. With the exception of the table land at the top it is now entirely covered with wood and matted fern. So long ago as 1767 as much timber was cut down on the ramparts as sold for £1700." (*Salopia Antiqua.*)

The hill, which stands alone, is 540 feet above sea level, and some 200 feet above the surrounding country, the line of Watt's Dyke passing over the western side, Offa's Dyke lying about two-and-a-half miles westward.

Nothing historical is known of the origin of the fortress, but it may be safely ascribed to the ancient Britons and that it was constructed at a period indefinitely remote. The names—Caer Ogyrfan and Hen Ddinas are British or Welsh, by whom the site of a congregation of human habitations was usually given the dignified title of "dinas" or city. John Speed, the historian, writing in 1611, says that the Britons

"Gave the names of Townes to certain combersome woods which they have fortified with rampires and ditches, whither they resort and retreat to eschue the invasion of their enemies. Which stand them in good stead, for when they have by felling trees mounted and fenced therewith a spacious plot of ground, there they build for themselves houses, and for their cattell set

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up stalls and folds, usually thatched with reeds ,but those for the present use only."

Tradition, however, ascribes its construction to a giant named Ogyrfan, an unknown chieftain, co-existent with the famous king Arthur (crowned A.D. 516) ,owner for a time of the celebrated Round Table. Ogyrfan, whose possessions were in this neighbourhood, was the father of Gwenhwyfar (Guinevere), one of Arthur's three wives, and the following saying relating to her is common in Powysland :—

"Gwenhwyfar, ferch Ogyrfan Gawr,
Drwg yn fechan, gwaeth yn fawr."
"Guinevre, Giant Ogyrfan's daughter,
Naughty young, more naughty later."

According to the *Welsh Triads*, this Gwenhwyfar went astray in the latter part of her married life. The *Book of Taliesin* treats Ogyrfan as the Originator of letters and writing, and as the owner of a mysterious cauldron out of which emerge three muses. A French Chronicler, later, tells that when William the Conqueror was on his march near the Welsh borders, he came to a ruined city, believed to be Hen Ddinas, and there heard a marvellous story of the Great Geomagog, whose uneasy spirit still watched over and ruled the city, and how Payn Peverel the

"Proud and courageous Knight, cousin of the King, with his shield shining with gold, on which was a cross of azure indented, took fifteen knights with him, in the midst of a tempest of thunder and lightning, and fought and completely routed the fiend, who carried a club and was guarding a treasure of oxen, cows, swans, peacocks, horses and other animals made of fine gold, and there was a golden bull which told the events which were to come." (*Story of the Castle.*)

When the ground was explored in the eighteenth century there were found a well, a pavement, pieces of war-like armour and a round shield a foot in diameter. (*Salopia Antiqua.*) The finding of a pavement indicates that the fortification must have been intended as a permanent dwelling place. As to the dwellings, nothing has been discovered, nor is it likely, for the abodes of the period consisted of rude and perishable huts made with the boughs of trees

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roughly interwoven and covered with mud or clay and perhaps skirted with a few stones, the timber being shaped into a conical form, an opening at the side serving as a door and window, and the uncovered point of the roof answering the purposes of a chimney. The earth served as a table and fingers as forks, at night "lodging was upon the cold ground," the whole family surrounding a fire kindled in the middle of their little space of house-room, and secured from the chilling cold of midnight only by the skins which sheltered them during the day. (*Oswald's Well.*)

The area within the ramparts is to-day a lawn of green sward, while a new crop of fine oak ornaments the rest of the fortification.

THE END.

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CORRIGENDA.

Page 20, line 23, *for* No. 18 *read* "No. 20."

" 108. Illustration. *After* Plan of Oswestry *add* "1815."

" 163. *After* 1884 at bottom of page, *add* "It is named after a Chapel dedicated to this Saint."

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